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ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

SELECTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE PRESBYTERIES

OF

ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR,

M.DC.XLI.—M.DC.XCVIII.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR THE ABBOTSFORD CLUB.

MDCCC.XXXVII.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

ALTHOUGH the local ecclesiastical Records of Scotland afford much valuable and interesting information regarding the early polity and discipline of the Church, the peculiar and anomalous jurisdiction of its judicatures, the moral and religious state of the country, and the manners, customs, and superstitions of the people, yet they have been either intirely overlooked, or only partially examined. As the earlier Registers of the PRESBYTERIES OF ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR comprise a mass of important and curious matter relating to these subjects, I have been induced to select from them the following Extracts, as a contribution to the Abbotsford Club.

It may be remarked, that many of the old Church Registers have been either lost or destroyed; and those that still remain have been too long allowed to lie in obscurity, subject to almost certain destruction from the careless manner in which they are preserved, being in many instances unbound, stained with damp, torn, or otherwise materially injured.[1] It is hoped, therefore, that the present volume may not only serve as an epitome of the Registers of these two Presbyteries, during a momentous period of Church history, but may also direct the attention of individuals to the general nature and importance of our ecclesiastical records, and lead them to a careful examination of their contents, and to contribute to their preservation.

[1] It is certainly matter of regret that they should remain in this state, and it would be a national benefit were an Act passed for the transmission of the more ancient volumes to some Public Repository.

The earliest record of the PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS, now extant, commences on the 20th October 1641, and terminates on the 12th November 1656. The previous Registers have been lost. From an inscription on the volume (now forming the *second* of the series,) beginning in 1656, and ending 28th September 1687, it is called, " the "*fourth* volume of the Register of the Presbyterie of St. Andrewes." It is evident, therefore, that in 1656 three older volumes were in existence. One of them, termed the *first*, appears to have been recovered by the Presbytery on 1st March 1654, for, " the quhilk day, the Clerk did produce the *first* " volume of the Presbyteries Register, quhilk was accepted thankfullie, and " the person quho refounded the same promised to be thankfullie satisfied." But at the Revolution all the volumes were missing. In 1693, however, the register (which is now the *second* volume) was recovered from Mr. Alexander Fairweather, ' Bibliothecarius in the New College,' who was sometime Clerk to the Exercife of St. Andrews during Episcopacy: And in 1698 the Register from 1641 to 1656, was discovered by Mr. Alexander Sheilds, minister of St. Andrews, " among the bookes of Mr. James Wemyss, late " Principall of Leonards Colledge, with which the Presbitrie were well satis- " fied," and gave Mr. Sheilds " heartie thanks for his diligence and care in " recovering the said Register." But the two earlier volumes appear to have been never recovered. As they must have related to the Episcopal period from 1600 to 1638, it is not improbable that they had been either secreted or destroyed by the Episcopal Clergy, who, on their deposition, generally carried off the church registers and utensils.

On the re-establishment of the Presbyterian religion in 1690, the Presbyteries of St. Andrews and Cupar, owing to the paucity of ordained ministers, were united into one judicature, and remained so until April 1693, when they were disjoined, as there was then " a competent number " of ministers to each of the two Presbitries;" and as " both were desirous " to be disjoined again, and to act separatelie by themselves." The first meeting of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, as a separate judicature, was accordingly held at St. Andrews on the 18th April 1693, on which day the *third* volume commences, and continues till 28th December 1698.

In the second volume, several blanks occur after 1662, which appear to have been intentionally left for the insertion of the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod, which were usually engrossed in the Registers of the various Presbyteries within the Diocese. In other respects the Registers of this Presbytery are in good preservation.

The Registers of the PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR have not been so carefully preserved. The earliest volume, which bears the Greek motto, Συν Θεω, on the first page, commences 6th October 1646, and ends 20th September 1660; all the previous records having been lost. A great hiatus occurs during Episcopacy, from 1662 to 1690, and it does not appear that the records of that period were delivered up at the Revolution. When this Presbytery was disjoined from that of St. Andrews in 1693, a new Register in quarto was commenced, which terminates on the 11th February 1702; after which the Records are regular and perfect. The first volume, from which alone extracts are given, is in excellent preservation, and contains much valuable and curious information; while the second possesses very little interesting matter, being mostly occupied with the details of settling minifters, and of censuring church delinquents.

The lithographed fac-similes of the signatures of those members of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, who subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant in 1643, or took the Test in 1681, are made from the originals adhibited to copies of those documents inserted in the Registers at the time. The fac-simile of the town of Cupar in 1642, is taken from a drawing made in that year by Mr. James Gordon, minister of Rothiemay, on his manuscript map of the County of Fife, preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

G. R. K.

EDINBURGH,
1st February, 1837.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

1641-1698.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

AT ST. ANDROS, OCTOBER 20, 1641.

Inglis in Forgan.—Mr. David Forrett[1] declared, that yet he could not gett David Inglis broght to give obedience to the ſentence of the Preſbyterie, for his conſultation with that woman ſuſpect of witchcraft. He is appointed to compeir befor the Preſbyterie the nixt day.

November 17.—*Hamilton, advyſe.*—Mr. George Hamilton[2] requyred the advyſe of the Preſbyterie, how they ſould proceid in thair ſeſſioun with a fewar and ane eldar, both in his paroch, quho, on the Lords day in the kirkyeard, did breake out in ill wordes, till they came to lies befor the congregation. The Preſbyterie thoght, for taking away the ſcandall, they ſould confeſſe thair fault befor the congregation on the Saboth, in thair owne ſeates.

November 29.—*Borthwick to attend with the Comiſſioners.*—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie mett occaſionallie, being advertiſed by the Moderatour. Their wer produced by the Moderatour two letters direct to the Preſbyterie, one ſubſcryved by the whole Commiſſioners appointed by our Par-

[1] Minister at Forgan; transported to Kilconquhar 27th May, 1646.

[2] Minister at Newburn; translated to Pittenweeme in February 1650; and deposed at the restoration of Episcopacy.

liament, for attending the Parliament of England, and another letter from the Comiſſion of the Generall Aſſemblie, both of them earneſtlie intreating the Preſbyterie that they wold appoint ther brother Mr. Eleazor Borthwick, Miniſter at Leuchars, to goe to England with the foirſaid Comiſſioners, for diſchargeing to them and ther attendants all miniſteriall duties, ſhewing ſeverall weghtie reaſons therfor. Compeared lykewayes diverſe gentlemen from the paroch of Leuchars, earneſtlie intreating ther caſe might be conſidered, ſeeing they have bein deſtitute of a reſident miniſter, for the moſt part theſe ſome yeirs paſt, and ſo that they wold not appoint ther Miniſter to leave them now. The ſaid Mr. Eleazor ſhew ſeverall reaſons, quhairfor it was not expedient that burden ſould be laid vpon him. All quhilk reaſons, on all partes, being ſeriouſlie conſiddered, the Preſbyterie thoght the requeſt of the Comiſſioners indeclyneable, and thairfor appoints the ſaid Mr. Eleazor to attend that charge.

Januar 5, 1642.—*Relict of John Trewman.*—The Preſbyterie received a ſupplication from the relict of John Trewman, cruellie execute by the Depute of Ireland, for avowing our cauſe and Covenant, and his wife and fyve children ſpoyled of all ther meanes at the Deputes direction, earneſtlie beſeeching them to conſidder her caſe, and to let her and her children be ſupplied out of the chriſtian benevolence of ther parochiners. It was appointed, that her caſe ſould be recommended by evrie Miniſter to ther ſeverall congregations the nixt Saboth, and the Sabboth therafter appointed for collecting quhat they wold beſtow for her releif, and the ſame to be broght in to the Preſbyterie.

Februar 2.—*Lady Fainton.*—Mr. Robert Blair[1] declared, that he cold nocht have occaſion to goe to my Lady Fainton throgh the intemperance of the weather. The Moderatour declared, he had bein at her, and dealt with her, bot fand her rather more obſtinate than any other change. Mr. Samuell Rutherford and Mr. James Bruce[2] appointed to deall with her, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

Februar 16.—*Lady Fainton.*—Theſe appointed to deale with my Lady

[1] Minister at St. Andrews. [2] Minister at Kingsbarns.

Fainton, declared they had bein at her, and reaſoned with her, and in reaſoning broght her to diverſe abſurdities, bot, for any thing they could ſie, ſaw ſmall or no hopes of change, or that by ſuch dealing ſhe ſhuld be broght to quyte her errours.

Beggars children.—Mr. Robert Traill and Mr. David Monro[1] requyred the judgment of the Preſbyterie, That quhairas beggars coming to ther paroches, and bringing foorth children thair, and deſires to have ther children baptized by them; quho, being aſked a warrand that they ar maried, they can produce none bot ther owne word, and, being tryed in ther knowledge of the grounds of religion, they fand them altogether ignorant, not having the verie letter of the Beleife,—If they ſall baptize theſe children or not? The Preſbyterie advyſed them not to baptize them.

Releife of thoſe chaſed out of Ireland.—The quhilk day was produced befor the Preſbyterie ane Act given out by the Lords of Counſell, requyreing and deſireing all Preſbyteries, Miniſters, and Elders within this kingdome, to deale with ther ſeverall paroches, to contribute for the help of theſe quho are chaſed out of Ireland, and robbed of all ther goods by the crueltie of the Rebells; quhilk was aggried vnto, and all convenient diligence appointed to be vſed for that effect.

Februar 23.—Lawmonth chaſed by Rebells.—Compeired Johne Lawmonth,[2] ſonne to vmquhile Mr. Allane Lawmonth, ſometyme miniſter at Scoonie, ſhewing to the brethren how he was chaſed out of Ireland by the crueltie of the Rebells, hardlie eſcaping with his life, and is deſtitute of any meanes for mantaineing him, or his wife and children. The Preſbyterie appointed to give him 40 ℔. of that quhilk remaines of the laſt collection for the relict of Johne Trewman; and, quhen the generall collection is gathered, that he be recomended to the diſtributors thairof.

March 23.—Admiſſion of Bennett to Kylrenie.—The Preſbyterie mett at Kylrinnie for admiſſion of Mr. Robert Bennett, quhair the Moderator did preach, Is. 6. 9.

Inglis referred to ther Seſſion.—David Inglis being called, compeired, and acknowledged befor the Preſbyterie, that quhat he did in going to that woman was out of ignorance, not thinking it to be ſuch a fault as now he

[1] Ministers at Ely and Kilconquhar. [2] He had been Minister at Temple-Patrick in Ireland.

ſaw it to be, and now referred himſelfe to the Preſbyterie for his cenſure. They referred him to ther Seſſion.

Woman fyled in Abercrumbie Paroch.—Mr. Robert Wilkie[1] declared, that they had alreadie wared, out of the poores boxe, fiftie merks upon that poore woman and her children in ther paroch, fyled by her huſband with the French poxe,[2] but ſhe is no better, becauſe they can have none to waite upon her; and that now they are dealeing with a woman in Perth, quho hes vndertaken to cure them in a ſhort tyme, and to find caution ſo to doe, bot will have ane hundreth merks in hand, quhilk they are not able to give; and therfor deſired the Preſbyterie to find ſome courſe for the ſame, how it may be done, that the poore woman and children be not loſt. Becauſe it behooved to be preſentlie advanced, the Preſbyterie deſired theſe of Abercrumbie to find ſome way for that, and ordained everie paroch to pay ſo much, as they pay to the burſare of Theologie, for ther releife.

Apryle 21.—*Sir Johne Scotts Carte.*—Anent the reference to the ſeverall Preſbyteries concerning Sir Johne Scotts Geographie Cart, all exhorted to vſe diligence therein.[3]

May 4.—*Carte.*—To the end greater diligence may be vſed in drawing vp the bounds of this Preſbyterie for Sir Johne Scotts Carte, the Preſbyterie have divyded the ſame in theſe ſeverall quarters: *Firſt*, The paro-

[1] Minister at Abercrombie.

[2] This was, perhaps, a disease which, in Scotland, is called *Sivvens*, and is viewed as of the venereal kind. It was so loathsome, and supposed to be so contagious, that not many years ago, some infected persons were publicly denounced from the pulpit of a parish in the north, and all intercourse with them forbidden.

[3] The publication of the large Atlas of Scotland, by Bleau at Amsterdam, in 1655, was an undertaking originally commenced by Timothy Pont, and carried on by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, and his son Mr. James Gordon, minister at Rothiemay, at the expense, it is said, of Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, Director of the Chancery. Sir John procured an order of the Generall Assembly, directing such ministers as were desired by the persons employed in making the surveys, to aid them in their accounts of the respective shires. The original map of Fife, with the Friths of Forth and Tay, drawn "by James Gordon, fil. R. G. de Straloch, 1642," is preserved in the Advocates Library, Edinburgh. It is possessed of additional interest, as the very neat and accurate plans of the towns of St. Andrews and Cupar drawn in the corners, were not engraved along with the reduced copy of the map for Bleau's Atlas.

chines of Ferrie, Forgan, and Leuchars, and for drawing vp the bounds of theſe, did appoint Scottſcraig, Naughton, and Pitlethie; *ſecound*, St. Andrewes, Dininnow, Kembok, St. Leonards, for theſe, Kembok, Kinkell, Piterthie; *third*, The whole coaſt ſyde, and for them, Barnes, Balfour, Randerſton, Mr. Robert Lamie, Lundie, Ardroſſe, Kincraig: and theſe appointed to vſe diligence heirin.

Salt pannes and ſalmon fiſhing.—Theſe quho have ſalt pannes or ſalmond fiſhing in ther congregations, are appointed to vſe all meanes with them, quhairby they may be keeped from breaking the Lords day quho worke therin.

The Preſbyterie, being informed, that the greateſt part of the Comiſſioners to the parliament of England are to come home, and fearing leaſt ther brother Mr. Eleazar Borthwicke be ſolicited to ſtay, have appointed a letter to be written to him, deſyring him to returne with the firſt, for diverſe weghtie reaſons.

June 8.—*Abuſe at Penny Brydells.*—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie takeing to ther conſideration, and being informed of the great abuſe that is in many parts of this Preſbyterie at Penny Brydells, It is ordained, that all the miniſters within the bounds of this Preſbyterie make intimation to all pairties quho are to be maried, that they neither exceid in number nor price, the ordinance of the Juſtice of peace, and that he take the parties enacted to give obedience therto, vnder paine of loſeing ther penaltie.

Theſe quho were appointed to view the bounds of this Preſbyterie, for Sir John Scotts Carte, ar appointed to vſe diligence therin.

June 22.—*Groſſe faults.*—It was regrated by diverſe brethren, that ſome groſſe faults, ſuch as ſtrikeing, and groſſe drunkards, did eſcape without cenſure, for want of a generall ordour for all of that kynd; quhilk is referred to the nixt day.

July 20.—James Lennox, Thomas Lennox, and Johne Wanne, ſalmond fiſhers in the paroch of Leuchars, enacted, with ther owne conſent, never to ſhutt a nett on the Sabboth, vnder the paine of twentie punds, *toties quoties.*

Januar 18, 1643.—*Norie.*—Mr. Robert Norie, Profeſſor of Humanitie in

St. Leonards College, difcharged to preach any in thefe bounds, till he produce befor the Prefbyterie his teftimoniall of the paffeing of his tryalls, which he is appointed to doe the firft day of meeting by the morne.

Januar 26.—*Norie.*—Compeired Mr. Robert Norie, and declared, that the reafon of his not comeing to the Prefbyterie, and fhewing his teftimoniall, did not proceid from any contempt, bot becaufe at his entrie ther he was abfolutlie difcharged by his patron to preach any, nor was he certaine of his refidence in that place; bot at the removall of Mr. Williame Bruce, quho was a helper with the Principall, he preached fometymes at the Principalls defire, bot now is willing to produce the fame, and did fo. The faid Mr. Robert being pofed for vttering fomethings in a fermon ther, feeming to reflect vpon the proceidings for the publicke caufe, which was judged fo much the more dangerous, as being delyvered to fuch a auditorie, as namelie, "That we ought not to fpeak of God bot to God, nor of Kings bot for Kings, in prayer; bot fuch is the corruption of men, that Kings, for the moft part, have moe critickes then good fubjects, that takes vpon them to cenfure not only ther publicke actions, bot even ther private and domefticke affaires, yea ther verie thoughts and intentions." The firft part quhairof, to thefe wordes, "who takes vpon them to cenfure," etc., he acknowledged he fpake. The Prefbyterie having enquyred quhat his text was, and finding no coherence at all betuixt this fpeach of his and any purpofe in the wordes, they thoght it feemed they were fpoken out of ane evill mynd and intention, and therfor ordained Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird and Mr. James Wood[1] to confer with him privatelie, and to try his mynd, and report to the Prefbyterie the nixt day, and in the meanetyme difcharges him of preaching till that be cleired.

Feberwar.—*Norie.*—Thefe appointed to fpeake with Mr. Robert Norie declared, that he refufes to acknowledge the wordes he fpake to be fcandalous, feeing he fpake of no particular, only he is forie that the Prefbyterie fould [have] taken offence at them; quhilk the Prefbyterie judged not fatiffactorie, and fo ordaines thame, with Mr. Robert Blair, yet to deale farther with him.

[1] Professor of theology in the University of St. Andrews.

March 15.—*Act for publick and commoun faults revived.*—The Preſbyterie ſeriouſlie conſidering the great abounding of the ſcandalous ſinnes of drunkennes, curſeing and ſwearing, notwithſtanding of the Act made heirtofoir againſt them, of the deatt March 24, 1641, and ratefied by the Provinciall Aſſemblie nixt following, doe appoint and ordaine that the foirſaid Act be revived, and intimate in the ſeverall kirkes within the bounds of this Preſbyterie, and that brethren, at the intimation therof, make choiſe of ſuch texts of Scripture as ar fitteſt to worke in the heartes of people a deteſtation of the foirſaid ſinnes; And lykewayes, the Preſbyterie ordaines that the ſeverall Seſſions within ther bounds be carefull to ſie the foirſaid ſinnes dewlie cenſured; viz. for the ſinne of drunkennes, that thoſe quho heirtofoir have beene knowen to be ſcandalous becauſe of it, ſall, for the verie firſt fault, declare ther repentance befor the Congregation; and theſe quho have not been remarked to have been ſcandalous of befor ſall, for the firſt fault, declare ther repentance befor the Seſſion, and for the ſecond befor the Congregation; and if any, after the ſecond or thrid cenſure, ſall continue in this groſſelie ſcandalous ſinne, that they be debarred from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, ay and while they give evident ſignes of ther repentance and reformation. And for the other ſinne of curſeing and ſwearing, the Preſbyterie ordaines that everie miniſter within this bounds be exactlie carefull for the repreſſeing and cenſuring therof, be takeing ſuch courſe with advyſe of the Seſſion as ſalbe found fitteſt for the ſame, not only by enjoyneing vnto thoſe quho, after the firſt and ſecond admonitions, ſalbe found to goe on in the ſinne, that they declare ther publicke repentance in the face of the Congregation, but alſo that ſome pecuniall mulct be inflicted, according to the qualitie of the perſon. And lykewayes, the lyke cenſure for theſe quho abſent themſelves from the appointed dyetts of catechiſeing twyſe in end, without ſome relevant excuſe. And that all elders be advertiſed to deprehend ſuch as they ſall find guiltie of flyteing, raileing, miſcalling any of ther neighbours, althogh ther be no plaint of partie, and ordaines that ſuch ſall ſatiſſie as if the partie did complaine: As alſo, that they be faithful dilators of theſe quho, without relevant excuſe, abſent themſelves from publicke worſhip on the Lords day, aſwell of theſe quho profane the ſame by workeing.

Faults publicke thogh betweene Man and Wife, to be publicklie cenſured.—Anent the queſtion proponed by Mr. Colen Adams[1] concerning a ſcandalous diſforder within his charge, betwixt a man and his wife, quho were outragiouſlie blaſpheming and curſeing in ſuch ſort that the neighbours were conveening about the doores, he himſelfe being eare and eye witnes of this great diſforder; quho having dilated the ſame to the Seſſion, and one of parties compeired before them, and convicted of the abuſe, ſaid miſcariage, and ſentenced: Yet one member of the Seſſion did, after the ſentence, oppoſe the cenſure, alledging, that none muſt meddle betueene man and wife. His queſtion was, what ought to be done in this caſe? The anſwer of the Preſbyterie is, That it is out of all queſtion, that the parties dilated, thogh man and wife, yet ought to be cenſured publiklie ſeeing it brake out in ſo publicke a way. As alſo, that quhoſoever oppoſed, after the ſentence ought to be ſummoned befor the Preſbyterie; bot the latter part heirof is delayed by the requeiſt of the ſaid Mr. Colen made to the Preſbyterie.

Sandielands.—Theſe quho were appointed to try of David Sandelands, whither or not, quhen he did cover his head in the kirk of Pittenweeme, at the reiding of the Warning and Declaration, quhen all others were diſcovered, was done by him out of contempt or not, declares, that his anſwer was, That he did it not out of contempt. The Preſbyterie thoght that at leaſt he ſould declare that befor them, and appointed them yet to ſpeake to him for that effect.

Marche 22.—Salt Pannes.—Anent the reference made the laſt day concerning the ſalt pannes, Mr. Arthur Myrton[2] declared that the greeves[3] were cited to be heir. The greeve of Barnes pans ſhew that his pannes reſts from ſixe on the Sabboth morning till ſixe on Monday morning. The Preſbyterie deſired he might ſtryve to keepe the whole Sabboth more punctuallie. Lykewayes, Mr. John Melvill[4] declared that the pannes in Pittenweeme doe reſt all the Sabboth.

[1] Minister of Anstruther-Easter.

[2] Mr. Arthur Myrton or Morton was minister of Crail. He wrote a Treatise called the Touchstone of Conversion, 12mo. Lond. 1642.

[3] Overseers.

[4] Minister of Pittenweem; died before 8 August 1649.

Marche 29.—Recomendatioun from the Lords of Counſell.—This day there was a letter preſented to the Preſbyterie direct from the Lords of his Majeſties Privie Counſell, to Sir Thomas Myrton of Cambo, one of there number, deſyreing him to requyre there concurrence and aſſiſtance for dealing with ſuch within the bounds of this Preſbyterie quho are able to advance any money for a tyme, for the ſupplie of the armie ſent out heir to Ireland, for the ſuppreſſing of the Iriſh rebells, till the Parliament of England, quho are obleiſhed to mantaine them, can have tyme to furniſh them; which money the ſaid Parliament of England obleiſhes themſelves ſhortlie to repay. The Preſbyterie does nominate the Laird of Scottiscraig, Colonell Lumiſdell, and Mr. Robert Blair for that effect, and deſires them to vſe all expedition heirin, and they to joyne to themſelves any other miniſter quhom they know to be of greateſt credite with the perſons with quhom they are to deale.

Apryle 19.—This day the Moderator, in name of the Miniſters of the Preſbyterie, did, at there command and direction, ſubſcryve the band for the lone for the releife of Ireland, for the ſowme of fyve hundreth pounds ſterling, to be advanced by them with all poſſible diligence.

Apryle 26.—Act for Penny Brydells, Baptiſmes, and Contractes.—The Preſbyterie perceiving the great abuſe that ſtill is among the moſt part of the comons, by gathering of multitudes to penny brydells, notwithſtanding of the ſeverall actes made againſt the ſame, both by Juſtice of Peace and Preſbyterie, it is appointed that miniſters ſalbe peremptor in proſecuteing the tenour of the act of the Juſtice of Peace, and that at the contracting they ſall take the parties enacted in the Seſſion bookes, that they ſall not exceid the number deſigned ther, vnder the paine of loſeing ther penaltie. And becauſe of the great abuſe that is lykewayes among them by conveening multitudes at baptiſmes and contracts, the miniſters and ſeſſions are appointed to take ſtrict order for reſtraineing theſe abuſes, that in number they exceid not ſixe or ſeven. As alſo ordaines that the hoſtlers quho mak ſuch feiſts ſalbe cenſured by the ſeſſions. And the Preſbyterie to crave particular account of miniſters and ſeſſions ther diligence heirin, that if they be found remiſſe, they may be cenſured ac-

cordinglie, and ordaines this act to be intimate in everie pulpitt of this Presbyterie the nixt Lords day save one.

May 3.—Vniversitie to subscryve the Covenant.—All the members within the Vniversitie, masters and students, are appointed to subscryve the Covenant againe, and Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Rector, is appointed, befor the subscription therof, to have some explication of quhat points in it may be difficle to these of younger yeirs and meaner capacities.

May 24.—Law divorced.—The Presbyterie declares that Jonat Law, divorced from Thomas Murray, befor the Comissers of Edinburgh, may marie another man.

July 12.—Sandielands.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Sir James Sandielands younger of St. Monnance, and is desired to declare whither or not he adheres to the Crosse Petition; who desired that some might speake to him privatelie the beginning of the nixt weeke, at which tyme he sall give satisfaction. The Presbyterie have appointed the Moderator, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Johne Melvill, Mr. Robert Traill, the Lairds of Moncreiff and Ardrosse, James Airth in Pittenweeme, to meitt ther and heare his declaration, that if he passes from it he sall come befor the Presbyterie and declare the same, and if he adheres to it that then he salbe summoned to compeer befor the Presbyterie.

Mr. Colein Adams, James Bruce, Robert Traill, James Wood, and Robert Blair appointed to goe to Craill on Thuresday, and speake some witches apprehended ther.

July 26.—Sandielands.—These quho were appointed to speake to Sir James Sandielands, declared they had not received satisfaction concerning his passeing from the Crosse Petition; quho being called, compeired not. The Presbyterie have appointed him to be summond to compeir befor the approaching Generall Assemblie.

Netts setting in the Lords Day.—The Presbyterie appoints ther Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie to crave ther advyce concerning the setting of netts for herring vpon the Lords Day.

Comissioners to be payed.—The Presbyterie have appointed, that hencefoorth the Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie salbe payed befor the Assemblie of ther charges by the Ministers of the Presbyterie, till another

courſe be found, and appoints the Moderator to borrow ane hundreth pounds for this tyme.

Auguſt.—Delay of burning witches.—The Preſbyterie have appointed Mr. George Dewar,[1] Mr. Robert Wilkie, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to deale with the Judges and Bailleis of Anſtruther, that they may delay the execution of ſome witches they have in hands, till the Preſbyterie appoint ſome to ſpeake with them.

Auguſt 16.—It is thoght fitting, that miniſters within this Preſbyterie, doe advertiſe the Preſbyterie befor any witches with them be put to execution.

Mr. David Monro, the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Robert Wilkie, to goe to Anſtruther-Weſter, to ſie the execution of ſome witches ther; and that they goe to Anſtruther-Eaſter and Craill, to ſpeake with ſome quho are apprehended for witches.

Monuments of ſuperſtition.—The Preſbyterie being informed, that ther are ſome monuments of ſuperſtition vpon the houſe of Pitcullo, in the paroch of Leuchars, have appointed Mr. Johne Barron,[2] and Mr. David Forrett, to goe to the ſaid houſe, and take notice quhat monuments of that kynd are thervpon, and report to the Preſbyterie the nixt day.

Auguſt 23.—The Moderator, Mr. James Bruce,[3] and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to ſpeake to theſe quho are apprehended for witches in St. Andros; and to attend the execution of two witches vpon Fryday nixt.

Millars.—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingſbarne mylnes, appointed to be ſummoned to compeir befor the Preſbyterie the nixt day, for the breake of the Lords day, by making ther mylnes to goe vpon it.

Obedience to the act of Seſſion.—A widow man in the Paroch of Dinninow, quho hes a woman living in the houſe with him, with quhom he is ſlandered for fornication, is appointed to obey the act of the Seſſion in putting her out of his houſe, otherwayes to ſummond him to compeir befor the Preſbyterie.

[1] Minister of Anstruther-Wester; deposed 21 Nov. 1644, for immorality and malignancy.

[2] Minister of Kemback; he was at the same time second master, and afterwards Provest of the Old College of St. Andrews.

[3] Minister of Kingsbarns.

Auguſt 30.—*Millars.*—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingsbarne mylnes, compeired, acknowledged ther breake of the Lords day; the Preſbyterie referres ther cenſure to the ſeverall kirk ſeſſions quher they dwell.

Superſtitious monuments.—Mr. David Forrett ſhew that he and Mr. Johne Barron wer at the houſe of Pitcullo, and declares ther are vpon the frontiſpeece of the houſe ſome monuments of ſuperſtition. The Preſbyterie appoints a letter to be writen to the Lord Burghley, intreating him to give order for demoliſhing all monuments of that kynd.

Advyce.—Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and the Moderator, appointed to goe to Anſtruther-Weſter, to conferre with ſome quho are apprehended for witches ther; and to give ther advyce to the Judges if the dilationes againſt Iſobell Dairſie be ſufficient for apprehending and trying of her.

Mr. David Forrett, Mr. James Wood, and Mr. Robert Traill, appointed to ſpeake to ſome laitelie apprehended in St. Andros, to ſie if they can bring them to any confeſſion.

September 6.—*Advyce*—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. James Wood, and the Laird of Cambo, appointed to meitt at Craill and give ther advyce, whither the preſumptions and dilations againſt two in that towne be ſufficient for apprehending and tryall.

Gudlad in St. Andros.—One in St. Andros quho rode vpon the Lords day to Burghley, under pretence of going to a Communion, bot did it indeid to deale with my Lord Burghley, for interpoſing his moyen for releaſing Margaret Balfour, now apprehended to be tryed for a witch, is appointed to ſatiſfie as a breaker of the Lords day; and ordaines that ſinne alſo of dealing for ſuch to be laid out befor him; and ſo is appointed to obey quhat the Seſſion ſall enjoyne him to doe.

Slanderers and concealers.—The Preſbyterie being informed that ther be ſome quho ſlander theſe for witches, againſt quhom ther is neither preſumption nor dilation, appoints ſuch to be cenſured by the Seſſions quher they remaine, as moſt notorious ſlanderers. As alſo ordaines ſuch as conceales any preſumption of any quho are apprehended, quhen it ſall come to light, they are appointed to be cenſured by Seſſions alſo.

September 13.—*Moreis for touching for the Cruells.*—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, appointed to compeir befor the Prefbyterie the nixt day, for takeing vpon him to heale the Cruelles by touching them, as the feventh fonne of a woman.[1]

The dilations againft Helen Scheivis for a witch, being related to the Prefbyterie, they gave ther advyce to apprehend and try her.

September 20.—*Minifters to fend out a man to the Armie.*—The Prefbyterie received a letter from the Committee of Eftates, fhewing ther defire that everie minifter may fend out a fojour to the prefent expedition, of which regiment, the Laird of Scottifcraig is appointed Colonell; quhairto the Prefbyterie did heartilie acquiefce.

Moreis in Carnbie.—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, acknowledging to the Prefbyterie, that he, as the feventh fonne of a woman, touches for cureing the Cruells, being examined, and it being found that he did it ignorantlie, is difcharged to vfe that any more to any, vnder paine of Kirk cenfures.

October 11.—*Advyce.*—The Moderator and Mr. Arthur Myrton, are appointed to goe to Anftruther-Wefter, vpon Fryday nixt, and give ther advyce to fuch Judges as falbe prefent ther concerning Ifbell Dairfie, how fhee falbe vfed in meate, drinke, fleepe, bed, and the lyke.

October 18.—*Covenant.*—The Prefbyterie received a letter from the Commiffioners of the Generall Affemblie, with fome copies of the folemne League and Covenant for reformation of Religion, the honour and happines of the King, and the peace and fafetie of the thrie kingdomes of Scotland, England, and Ireland, requyreing the Prefbyterie to vfe all diligence for caufeing the feverall congregations fubfcryve and fweare the

[1] The gift of curing the *Cruels* or scrofula by the touch, was supposed to be an inherent prerogative of our Kings, who often put it in practice. Charles I. when he visited Scotland in 1633, on St. John's day, "heallit 100 persones of the cruelles or King's eivell, yong and olde." It would appear, however, that a *seventh* son, who is superstitiously believed to be endued by nature with *infallibility* as a *doctor*, also possessed this imaginary virtue. "It is manifest, by experience, that the seventh male child by iust order, (neuer a girle or wench being borne betweene,) doth heale only with touching (through a naturall gift) the King's evil: which is a speciall gift of God given to Kings or Queenes, as daily experience doth witnesse." Lupton's Notable Things, *edit.* 8vo. 1631, p. 28.

ſame. This day, the whole Preſbyterie, miniſters and elders, ſubſcryved the ſame, and appointed it to be read and explained in everie kirk of this Preſbyterie by the miniſter; and the nixt Lords day therafter, that it ſall be ſolemnlie ſworne by all, with faſting and humiliation, and all maner of religious ſolemnities, according to the ordinance of the ſaids Comiſſioners, and therafter to proceid with all convenient diligence to the ſubſcryving therof by all.

November 15.—*Blair complaines of Lundie.*—Mr. Robert Blair declared, that quhill he and his collegue, Mr. Andro Honyman,[1] with the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillie of St. Andros, being ſent by the Seſſion of St. Andros to Sir James Lundie, inhabitant in the ſaid citie, to deſire him to keepe the dyetts of the publicke worſhip of God, he having neir the ſpace of ane twelvemoneth deſerted the ſame, he was ſo fare from promiſeing amendement, that he behaved himſelfe injurioufllie toward the ſaid Mr. Robert Blair, and quhen his hatt was in his hand, he put his on his head, and gave him a direct lie. The Preſbyterie ordaines him to be ſummond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Attend burning of witches.—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to goe to Craill on Fryday, and attend the execution of ſome witches; and give ther advyce to the Judges concerning the dilations againſt others, if they may be apprehendit and tryed.

November 29.—*Covenant.*—This day the Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſion of the Generall Aſſemblie, requyreing them to vrge all Engliſh in ther bounds to ſubſcryve the late League and Covenant, and to ſend over the names of all ſuch as refuſes or delayes to ſubſcryve to them, that they may be delyvered to the Engliſh Comiſſioners. They received alſo another letter, requyreing inſpection to be takin if all in ther owne paroches have ſubſcryved and ſworne the ſame, and to ſend over the names of refuſers or delayers to them. The Communion Rolles and Covenants, are appointed to be brought in to the Preſbyterie this day moneth, to St. Andros.

[1] Minister at St. Andrews, and afterwards Bishop of Orkney. He wrote a Survey of Napthali, and other controversial works.

December 28.—*Letter from Lord Balcarras*—The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Lord Balcarras, deſireing that they wold appoint one of ther number to be miniſter to his regiment of horſes. In regard they are alreadie engadged to furniſh the Erle of Lindſay his regiment of a miniſter, and the Preſbyterie of Cuper furniſh none, his Lordſhip is deſired to have his recourſe to them for that effect.

Januar 11, 1644.—*Lundie compeired.*—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knycht, quho, being poſed vpon the particular points contained in the lybell, acknowledged he had not beene in the church of St. Andros for the ſpace of ane twelvemoneth, bot alledged he was not to blame, becauſe he could not have a ſeate in the kirk. As for giving a lie to Mr. Robert Blair, he denyes that, only being much provocked by the ſaid Mr. Robert, he ſaid, "If yee wer another man, Sir, I wold ſay, yee lie." The Preſbyterie appoints Mr. Andro Honyman, the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillie of St. Andros, to be ſummoned as witneſſes in that buſſines againe Wedinſday nixt, and warnes the ſaid Sir James *apud acta* to compeir the ſaid day to heare the witneſſes examined.

The Preſbyterie intreated ther brother Mr. James Bruce, to remember the Erle of Lindſay to give a generall comiſſion for apprehending, trying, and judgeing of ſuch as are or ſalbe dilated for witches within the Stewartrie.

Advyce for Witches.—The Preſbyterie did appoint Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Robert Wilkie, Robert Traill, Arthur Myrton, Johne Melvill, miniſters; Lathallen, James Airth, and Johne Alexander, ruling elders, to meitt with the Judges at Pittenweeme, and give ther advyce, if, vpon the dilations againſt Chriſtane Dote in St. Minnance, ſhee may be apprehended and tryed.

Januar 17.—*Advyce approven.*—Thoſe quho went to Pittenweeme at the Preſbyteries direction to give ther advyce concerning the dilations againſt Chriſtane Dote, declared they found the dilations ſufficient to apprehend and try her.

Januar 24.—Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. Arthur Myrton, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to goe to Anſtruther the morne, and attend the execution of Iſbell Dairſie.

Recommendation.—The Preſbyterie does recommend it to the Laird of Randerſton, being one of the Judges quhom the Erle of Lindſay hes depute, that he and ſome others with him will apprehend Chriſtane Dote, dilated for a witch, that ſhee may be put to tryell.

Februar 7.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knycht, quho objected only that he did not give Mr. Robert Blair a direct lie. The witneſſes being preſented, he was deſired to ſhew if he had any thing to object againſt any one or all of them, why they might not be admitted witneſſes in that particular, quho objected, that they, being conjunct comiſſioners at that tyme with Mr. Robert Blair, could not be admitted as witneſſes in that particular. Which objection the Preſbyterie having conſiddered, found that, notwithſtanding of that objection, they may and ought to be admitted witneſſes, becauſe the particular offence is done againſt Mr. Robert Blair; as alſo, becauſe the controverſie could not be otherwayes decided. Wherevpon the ſaids witneſſes were particularlie ſworne to declare the truth in that buſſines, in ſo farre as they know or ſalbe ſpeired at; and all removed.

Mr. Andro Honyman being examined, declared, That the ſaid Sir James being accuſed for ſtaying ſo long from the publicke worſhip of God in the kirk, he promiſed no amendement, bot behaved himſelfe rudelie toward Mr. Robert Blair, with his hatt on his head, quhen Mr. Roberts was in his hand, and ſaid, "If yee will ſay that, Sir, I will ſay, yee lie; or if any in Scotland will ſay it, I will ſay he lies."

Kembok declared, That amendement in ſtaying from the kirk he promiſed none; but advancing with his hatt on his head, with his hand ſtretched out as if he wold ſtrike, he ſaid, "Whoſoever, even the beſt in the land, will ſay that which yee ſay, I will ſay he lies."

James Wood, baillie, declared, That he promiſed no amending of his ſtaying from the kirk, bot caried himſelfe in a rude and injurious way to the ſaid Mr. Robert: He ſaid, "It is a lie, Sir, yee ſay, and if the beſt in the countrey wold ſay it, I wold ſay the lyke."

Thus the whole lybell being partlie confeſſed and partlie proven, the ſaid Sir James is warned *apud acta* to compeir befor the Preſbyterie the nixt day, to heare ther ſentence pronounced.

Some appointed to meitt at Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint the Moderator, Mr. Arthur Myrton, David Monro, Johne Heart,[1] Robert Bennett, and Johne Melvill, James Lentron, Johne Alexander, Johne Livingſtone, to meitt at Silverdyke with a quorum of the Judges, and conſidder of the dilations againſt Margret Myrton, concerning charmeing and conſulteing with witches, and give ther advyſe quhat courſe to take with her. As alſo, to meitt at Pittenweeme and give ther advyſe concerning the watching of Chriſtane Dote, and her dyett of ſleepe, bed, meate and drinke.

Vakeing Kirks to ſend out Men—The paroches whoſe kirks are vakeing are appointed to ſend out ther men for Scottiſcraigs regiment, aff the firſt end of the ſtipend, according to the ordinance of the Convention of Eſtates and Comiſſion of the Aſſemblie.

Februar 21.—*Report of theſe quho went to Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.*—Theſe quho had comiſſion given to conſidder the dilations againſt Margaret Myrton in Silverdyke, concerning conſulteing with witches and charmers, declared, that they fand her to be deiplie guiltie of theſe, yea likelie to be guiltie of witchcraft in diverſe particulars, quhervpon they did advyſe the Judges to apprehend and try her; quherin they are approven. As alſo that they did meitt at Pittenweeme, where they did give ther beſt advyce to a quorum of the Judges, concerning the fitteſt way of watching and trying Chriſtane Dote in St. Minnance.

The Preſbyterie appoints Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Arthur Myrton, Mr. Johne Melvill, and Mr. Robert Bennett, with Mr. Andro Honyman, to be preſent at the confrontation of Chriſtane Dote in St. Minnance, and Margaret Balfour in St. Andros, with Beatie Dote in Craill.

Lykewakes and Burialls.—The Preſbyterie being verie ſenſible of the great abuſes within theſe bounds at lykewakes and burialls, eſpeciallie by drinking after the ſame, doe appoint Mr. James Bruce, and Mr. Andro Honyman, to conſidder of overtures for reſtraineing therof, and repreſent them to the Preſbyterie the nixt day.

Februar 21.—*Lundies excuſe.*—This day Sir James Lundie ſent ane

[1] Minister at Crail, translated to Denino, December 1646, and to Dunkeld, December 1650.

excuſe of his inhabilitie to appeare befor the Preſbyterie, therfor deſired they wold delay to pronunce thair ſentence till the nixt day. The Preſbyterie appointed Doctor Colvill, and Mr. James Wood to deale with him for ſubmitting to the Preſbyterie, and appoints him to be ſummond to compeir the nixt day.

March 20.—*Lykewakes and Burialls.*—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering of the great abuſes and manifold diſſorders that are frequentlie at night wakeings of the dead and burialls, which tend to the great diſhonour of God, the ſcandall of the Goſpell, and foſtering of ſuperſtition and profanitie, have appointed and ordained, and by thir preſents doe appoint, that people at theſe tymes when the dead are in the houſe, hold there doores cloſe as at other tymes, and that they give no entrance to the confuſed multitude quho frequent ſuch occaſions: and lykewiſe ordaines ſuch as goe to the place where the dead are, not being invited by the freinds of the dead, to be cenſured by Seſſions as diſſorderlie walkers; and that the freinds, quho have the dead in ther houſe, ſall call none to beare them companie bot thrie or foure grave kinſfolkes or freinds quhom they thinke meeteſt; and they are to remember that it is not a tyme of eating or drinking, or making merrie after a wordlie maner, bot to carie themſelves chriſtianlie as becomes perſones profeſſing godlines. As alſo, they appoint and ordaine, that that heathniſh cuſtome, vnder a popiſh name, of drinking dirgies after the corpes are interred, be vtterlie aboliſhed. As alſo, quhat the dead appoints to be given to the poore, or freinds thinke fitt to diſtribute that way, that they bring or ſend it to the Seſſion of the congregation where the perſon dies, to be by them diſtribute to the poor, quho muſt beſt know the neceſſities of ſuch, and can diſtribute the ſame more reaſonablie and equallie than it can be done in ſo great a tumult of beggars as vſe to be at the buriall place, where they that cryes moſt and have leaſt neid, come often beſt ſpeede.

March 27.—Reference to the Provinciall, Quhat ſalbe the cenſure of conſulters with witches and charmers? As alſo, Quhat ſalbe the cenſure of ſuch as are maried, and within a ſhort tyme after brings foorth a child?

Apryle 24.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint Mr. Arthur Myrton, and the

Laird of Randerſton, to ſhew the Univerſitie, that it is ther earneſt requeſt that Mr. Thomas Lentron be preferred to the place of Bibliothecarian.

May 20.—*Lundie and Blair.*—Theſe appointed to ſpeake to Sir James Lundie declaired, they had diſcharged thair commiſſion, and found him willing to ſubmitt to thair ſentence, yet now he alledges he was much provocked by Mr. Robert Blair befor he ſpake any wordes in paſſion to him, which he offers to prove by witneſſes. The Preſbyterie appoint him to compeir this day eight dayes, and bring any witneſſe he can in that buſines, vtherwayes they will proceed to pronounce thair ſentence.

June 12.—*Sentence concerning Sir James Lundie.*—The Preſbyterie taking to conſideration Sir James Lundie his buſſines, and quhat his cenſure ſalbe, conſiddering his age and infirmitie of bodie, doe appoint him to come befor the Preſbyterie, and there to acknowledge that offence committed by him againſt Mr. Robert Blair, ſent to him in commiſſion from the Seſſion of St. Andros; and at the ſaid Mr. Robert his returne, he is lykewayes appointed to come befor the Seſſion of St. Andros and doe the lyke; and the Preſbyterie doe appoint the Seſſion of St. Andros to urge him and his familie to frequent the Kirk.

Beaton ſlandered of Adultrie.—Mr. Robert Bennett ſhew that one in his paroch apprehended for a witch, quho is now burnt for that fact, did a ſhort tyme after her apprehending (before ſhee confeſt herſelfe a witch) confeſſe that ſhee had committed adulterie with Alexander Beaton; and therafter ſaid, that her committing of that adulterie was the firſt cauſe of that wickednes of witchcraft wherein ſhee hes fallen; quho, being accuſed therof, both in private and befor the Seſſion, denyes the ſame; yea, quhen he was deſired to ſtay to be confronted with her for clearing himſelfe, promiſed to doe ſo, bot notwithſtanding went over to Edinburgh and ſtayed ther till ſhee was brunt; and deſires the Preſbyteries advyce quhat ſalbe done therin. The Preſbyterie ordaine him to be ſummond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Norwell Inceſtuous.—Mr. James M'Gill[1] ſhew that James Smith, Sheriffe depute, refuſes to accept of Euphane Norwell, quho confiſſed inceſt the laſt day, to try or judge her; alledging that it belongs to the

[1] Minister at Largo.

Erle of Lindſay as Stewart. The Preſbyterie doe deſire Mr. James Bruce to declare this to Alexander Inglis of Kingaſk, quho is one of my Lords deputes, and one entruſted with my Lords effaires now quhen he is out of the country.

The Preſbyterie doe appoint Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Robert Wilkie, Mr. Robert Bennett, Mr. Harie Rymer,[1] to goe to Pittenweeme, and deale with thoſe quhom they have apprehended as witches.

June 26.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint everie miniſter to try in his owne paroch, quho did ſett fyres on Midſummer even, and cauſe cite ſuch befor the Seſſion to be cenſured by them.

July 3.—The Preſbyterie appoint Mr. James Wood, Robert Bennett, Colein Adams, and Harie Rymer, to attend the execution of ſome witches in Pittenweeme on Monday nixt.

July 17.—*Lundie compeired.*—Compeired Sir James Lundie, and acknowledged his offence againſt Mr. Robert Blair. The Preſbyterie deſired him to keepe the kirk, and told that they have ordained the Seſſion to proceid againſt him with the cenſures of the Kirk if he doe it not.

Auguſt 7.—*Wylies dilation.*—Mr. James M'Gill ſhew to the Preſbyterie dilations againſt Jonat Wylie, dilated for a witch in his paroch, deſireing the Preſbyteries advyce theranent. The Preſbyterie doe thinke there is ſufficient ground for apprehending and trying her.

Auguſt 21.—*Ceſſation from ſervile worke on Weeke Dayes of Faſting.*—According to a former appointment of the Preſbyterie, they doe againe appoint and ordaine, that ther be a ceſſation from all ſervile worke vpon ſuch weeke dayes as are appointed for ſolemne faſting and humiliation, aſwell as vpon the Lords day, vnder paine of the cenſures of the Kirk.

November 7.—*Thankſgiving.*—The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Commiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, ordaineing a day of thankſgiving through the kingdome, on Thureſday come eight dayes, for the gaineing of Newcaſtle.

Roch not to be enlarged.—Compeired befor the Preſbyterie, James Richieſone, baillie of Pittenweeme, and James Airth, clerk therof, requyreing the advyce of the Preſbyterie, anent one Chriſtane Roch, incarcerate there

[1] Minister at Carnbie.

for a witch, vpon thrie ſeverall dilations of thrie confeſſing witches, quho have all ſuffered; as alſo, a *fama clamoſa* for the ſpace of twentie yeirs, and ſince her incarceration, they have found, by the ſearch of the hangman, two markes; whither or not they might enlarge her vpon the earneſt dealing of her huſband, quho is vſeing all means for obtaineing heirof. The Preſbyterie, having taken the mater to there ſerious conſideration, thoght the foirſaid preſumptions ſo pregnant, that they could not bot advyſe them not to enlarge her till farther tryell.

December 18.—A woman in Craill, quho confeſſes that ſhee hes not beene in the kirk at publicke worſhip thrie yeirs together, is appointed to come befor the congregation ſeverall Sabbothes, and acknowledge her offence publickelie; and ordaines her to be put in the hands of the civile magiſtrate.

December 25.—*Advyce concerning Ladie Carnbies buriall.*—The advyce of the Preſbyterie being deſired, Whither Margret Melvill might be buried within ane yle of the kirk of Carnbie? The Preſbyterie, having heard full information of the buſſines on both parts, declare it to be ane breach of the act of the Generall Aſſemblie, if any take vpon them to burie her within the ſame.

The Preſbyterie does referre it to the Generall Aſſemblie, quhat ſalbe the cenſure of ſuch as are convict of charmeing, or conſulting with witches.

Januar 22, 1645.—*Sheivis rebuiked.*—Mr. Johne Sheivis did acknowledge his overſight in labouring to have Margret Melvill buried in the Yle of the kirk of Carnbie, and after confeſſing of his fault, was admoniſhed by the Preſbyterie, and promiſed to carie himſelfe more duetifullie to the Preſbyterie for afterward.

Mr. Johne Barron and Mr. James Bruce are appointed to joyne with the Magiſtrates of St. Andros, and the Erle of Craufurd Lindſay his deputes, on reviſing the particulars that are againſt ſome incarcerate for witches in St. Andros, and give ther advyce theranent.

March 12.—*Camron Kirk.*—The whilk day was produced to the Preſbyterie, the Act of Parliament for erecting the Kirk of Camron in a paroch, and deſigneing a manteinance therto; which diligence is approven by the Preſbyterie, and the parochiners there are ferioufllie deſired to concurre

with the Preſbyterie, to quhom the right of patronage belongs, to condeſcend vpon a man for filling that place.

Apryle 2.—*Bonar.*—This day it was ſhewn to the Preſbyterie, that Thomas Bonar, ſervand to Sir James Sandielands, younger of St. Minnance, being drinking in Kylrinnie, they did ſing a malignant ſong, and drinke drinkes to James Grahame, ſometymes Montrois, and others. The Moderator and Mr. Harie Rymer are appointed to try in Kylrinnie, quhat further they can of that buſſines, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

Apryle 16.—*Sandielands.*—It was ſhewn to the Preſbyterie, that David Sandielands, ſonne to the Laird of St. Minnance, carrouſeing in his cups, he did take a badge of gold from about his necke, and threw it into the cup, and wold drinke to the giver, quho is alledged to be *quondam* Montrois, and ſaid that diverſe of qualitie did wear the lyke badge. The Preſbyterie referre the farther tryell therof to the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, and appoints a letter to be writen to them for that effect, and ſhewing that he intends preſentlie to goe to France with my Lord Kellie, that ſuch courſe may be taken as by them ſalbe thoght moſt expedient.

Apryle 30.—*Bonar.*—Theſe quho were appointed to try concerning Thomas Bonar declared, that they found it verified by thrie witneſſes, that he did ſing theſe wordes:

> Bobo Finla did command
> The valiant Grahame and the Irish band
> To beate the rebells out of the land.

And that he dranke a health to Bobo Finla. Both which he did therafter confeſſe, alledging he knew not quhat Bobo Finla meant,[1] bot that he had heard diverſe of note ſing that ſong, and drinke that drinke in Edinburgh, a twelvemonth ſince: quho being called, compeired and acknowledged the ſame to the Preſbyterie, bot wold not declare quhom he heard ſing the ſong, or drinke the drinke. The Preſbyterie referres the further tryell heirof to the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie; and in the meane-

[1] Perhaps by *Bobo Finla* was meant King Charles I.

tyme, defire the Magiftrates of St. Andros to incarcerate him, till he be either fafelie conveyed to Edinburgh, or fufficient caution found that he fall anfwer ther according to law.

Vagabond beggar.—Whereas the vagabond beggar, mentioned the former day, is willing to refide in a paroch, and to worke in his calling, he being a horner,[1] obleifhing himfelfe to be willing to be fcourged through any towne quher he falbe found vageing heirafter, and to make fatiffaction to the Kirk, and marie the woman that he may have his chyld baptized; quhervpon the Prefbyterie did appoint Mr. Johne Barron to baptize the chyld after the performance of thefe things.

Kelfo.—This day the Prefbyterie received a letter from the Comiffioners of the Generall Affemblie, fhewing the great defolation of the towne of Kelfo,[2] defyreing that they wold ftirre vp thofe in the bounds to extend ther chriftian charitie for ther releife. The anfwer heirvnto is referred to the next day.

Sheivis.—A fupplication from Helen Sheivis, incarcerate for a witch in St. Andros, referred.

May 14.—*Perfons to be maried to enact themfelves at ther contract.*—The Prefbyterie doe appoint and ordaine that fuch perfons as being requyred at the contracting will not fubmitt to enact themfelves, according to the Acts of the Juftice of Peace and Prefbyterie, concerning the number of perfons at mariages, that they be not proclaimed till they enact themfelves to obey the fame.

Bonar.—Whereas Thomas Bonar hath now beene fyftein dayes in the tolbuith of St. Andros, and no order taken for bringing him to Edinburgh, and he is poore and not able to intertaine himfelfe, it is appointed that he fall make his publicke repentance in Kylrinnie and in Kilconquhar for his great mifcariage; and fall therafter enact him felfe in the Seffion of Kilconquhar, and find caution to anfwer the Comiffioners of the Generall Affemblie quhen he fall be called for to them.

Bamuto and others drinking in St. Minnance.—Whereas it is certified to the Prefbyterie, that in the houfe of St. Minnance, by perfons quho were

[1] A maker of horn spoons, &c.

[2] Kelso at this tyme suffered severely from the plague.

ther at the Laird of St. Minnance buriall, healths were dranke, and elſquher offered to be drunken, to Sir Marmaduke Langdell, Colkittoch, the Captaine of Athole, particularlie by the Laird of Bamuto, The Preſbyterie doe recomend it to Mr. Thomas Black to repreſent that concerning Bamuto to ther Preſbyterie in whoſe bounds he dwells; and doe appoint the Moderator and Mr. David Monro to try quhat further clearing they can have therof, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

June 4.—*Report from Melvill.*—Mr. James Wood declared, that the reaſon why Mr. Johne Melvill keepes not the dyets of the Preſbyterie is becauſe of the gutt. And that he acknowledges his omitting the prayer of conſecration at the Table, bot alledges that he did that which he judges to be equivalent in the pulpitt; and that he did not reade the wordes of the inſtitution at all, bot did relate them ſhortlie quhill he was diſtributeing the Elements; alledging quhat he did to be *ſcandalum acceptum*, not *ſcandalum datum*. He is appointed to come to the Preſbyterie the nixt day, if he may poſſiblie.

Healths in St. Minnance.—Mr. David Forrett declared, that he poſed Mr. Andro Moncreiff concerning the drinkeing of James Grahame *quondam* Montrois his health, in the houſe of St. Minnance; quho confeſſes it was motioned and begunne, bot remembers not by quhom, only it was alledged to be by Bamuto; bot it went not about the table. Mr. Harie Rymer is appointed to vſe further diligence in trying therof, and to advertiſe the Preſbyterie of Kirkadie quhat he learns heirin.

June 11.—*Melvills acknowledgment.*—Mr. Johne Melvill being preſent, acknowledges his omiſſion of the prayer of conſecration at the Table to be againſt Chriſts inſtitution, and the practiſe of our Kirk, and that he failed againſt the order of our Kirk in not reading the wordes of the inſtitution befor the diſtributeing of the Elements. For the preſent it is appointed, that thoſe quho were formerlie appointed to heare him preach, ſall heare him twyſe befor Mr. David Guthrie his admiſſion.[1]

[1] Mr. Johne was considered by his parishioners unedifying in his doctrine,—"his memorie and judgement being now of a long tyme jumbled through his owne default,"—that there was "too much wyne drunken in his house," altho they had never "seene him drunke, in respect he is an able man," &c.

Regrate for exceſſe in drinkiny.—Whereas it is regrated, that when the Comittee meete at Couper ther is great exceſſe in drinking vſed by ſome after ther meetings. As alſo, that thoſe quho are appointed to plunder deficients drinke quhat they plunder, and give great offence that way. Mr. George Hamilton, Mr. James M'Gill, and Skedoway, are deſired to repreſent the ſame to the Preſbyterie of Couper, and to advyſe with them quhat may be the beſt courſe for reſtraineing theſe abuſes.

June 18.—This day the Preſbyterie received the Act of the Comittee of Eſtaitis appointing a contribution for the help of the towne of Dundie; which is to be further thoght vpon, for laying downe the way therof at more lenth.

Scot, millar in Anſtruther.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint James Scott to enact himſelfe in the Seſſion books of Anſtruther Weſter, that he ſall not ſuffer his mylne to goe from midnight to midnight on the Lords day, vnder the ordinar paine.

July 9.—*Act againſt thoſe quho fall befor Mariage.*—The Preſbyterie conſiddering the ryfe vncleannes that is found amongſt perſons that propoſes to enter in mariage together, quho, not expecting the ſolemne bleſſing to ther mariage, and the prayers of Gods people, according to the godlie order of the Church, wickedlie defyle themſelves with hope to ſhelter ther vncleannes from the cenſures of the Church by the following mariage; ſome that way enſnareing themſelves in vnmeit mariages, without the knowledge and to the great greife of parents, and ſuch as have intereſt in them, to the great ſcandall of the profeſſion of the Goſpell; provokeing God alſo this way to curſe ther mariages for ther diſforderlie runneing to it: Theirfor, for remedie heirof, and removeing the ſcandall enſueing hence, they have ordained, that heirafter ſuch maried perſons, of quhom it ſall clearlie and certainlie appear, that befor ther mariage they have knowen one another, whither befor or after ther contract, ſall publicklie declare ther repentance befor the congregation offended by ther cariage. And ordains this Act to be publiſhed in pulpits that none pretend ignorance heirof, and to be regiſtrate in the Seſſion bookes of the ſeverall paroches within this Preſbyterie.

July 23.—*Guthries admiſſion.*—The Preſbyterie mett this day at Anſtruther Weſter for admiſſion of Mr. David Guthrie.

Auguſt 11.—The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſion of the Kirk, together with a encloſed Paper, entituled "ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS IN THE MINISTRIE, AND THE REMEDIES THEREOF, RECOMENDED TO THE SEVERALL PRESBYTERIES;" the tenour whereof followis; and firſt the tenour of the letter.

REVEREND AND BELOVED BRETHREN,

BEING frequentlie heir by advyce and desire of the Honorable Estates of Parliament, and being also by them excited to make ane acurate search of the sinnes of the land, provokeing the Lord to so great indignation against vs, we did exhibite to them a new and necessarie Warning, breiflie containing the causes of our judgement, and the conceived remedies therof, which, for some reasons, is thoght fitt not to be printed at this tyme. Only, we signifie this to you, that in the end therof, we exhorted the severall States among themselves to make a strict inquisition of the sinnes most incident to themselves, that they might provocke one another to repentance, and zeale to God and his cause, and so make better vse of this then of our former Warnings; and they accordinglie sett apart a tyme to that effect, and went about it. And we, quho did exhort others, thoght it incumbent to ourselves, seriouslie to search, and humblie and sadlie to acknowledge, the faults of our persons and callings, and such as were knowen to be too rife amongst vs of the Ministrie; which was in a solemne way performed in one of our meetings, one by one, as the Lord touched everie mans heart and opened there mouth. Out of which speaches, the inclosed Catalogue of sinnes, and Remedies therof, was extracted, and the samen we thoght good to transmitt vnto you, that yee, making vse therof, and reflecting your thoghts vpon your selves, may Presbyteriallie follow the same course, and give order that the samen be done in your severall Sessions; desireing withall, that in each congregation, in a solemne humiliation, ther may be a confession and bewaileing of sinne, and a pressing of each familie privatelie to performe the samen, that so at last all Scotland may lament after the Lord, that his fierce wrath may depart from vs. Swa, hopeing yee will not be deficient herein in so necessarie a tyme, we committ you and your labours to the blessing of God, and rests

Your loving brethren the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

(Sic subr.) Mr. WILLIAM BENNETT, *Moderatour.*

Perth, August 5, 1645.

Postscript.—This our Letter, together with the inclosed Articles, we requyre to be registered in the Presbyterie bookes for our exoneration.

ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS OBSERVED TO BE IN THE MINISTRIE, WITH THE REMEDIES THEREOF.

ENORMITIES.

The first and maine sinne, reaching both to our personall carriage and callings, we judge to be, not studieing how to keepe communion and fellowshippe with God in Christ, but walking in a naturall way without employing of Christ, or drawing vertue from him, to enable vs vnto sanctification and preaching in spirit and power.

In our Lyves.

1. Much fruitles conversing in companie, and complying with the sinnes of all sorts, not behaving ourselves as becomes the men of God.

2. A great worldlines is to be found amongst vs, mynding and speaking most about things of this life, being busied about many things, but forgeting the maine.

3. Slighting of Gods worship in their families, and theirfor no cordiall vrgeing of it vpon others; yea, altogether wanting of it in some, if it be credible.

4. Want of gravitie in carriage and apparrell, dissolutenes in haire, and shaking about the knies; lightnes in the apparrell of ther wyves and children.

5. Tippleing and bearing companie in vntymeous drinking in tavernes and ale-houses, or any quher els; quherby the Ministrey is made vyle and contemptible.

6. Discountenanceing of the godlie, speaking ill of them, because of some that are vnansueerable to their profession.

7. The Sabboth not sanctified after sermons, which maketh people thinke that the Sabboth is ended with the sermon.

8. Their are also to be found amongst vs, quho vse small and minced oathes.

9. Some so great strangers to Scripture, that, except in ther publicke ministrie, thogh they read many things, yet they are litle conversant in the Scripture, and in meditation therof, a duetie incumbent to all the people of God.

In our Callings.

1. Corrupt entrie into the ministrie in former tymes, and following the course of defection; though forsaken yet never seriouslie repented: As also, present entring into the Ministrie as to a way of living in the world, and not as a spirituall calling.

2. Helping in, and holding in, of insufficient and suspected men, quho savour of the things of this life; and keeping the doore straiter on them quhom God hath sealed, than vpon these quho have lesse evidence of the power of grace and holines.

3. Partialitie in favouring and speaking for the scandalous, whither Ministers or other persons, teaching them how to delay or shift censures.

4. Silence in the publicke cause, not labouring to cure the disaffection of people, not vrgeing them to constancie and patience in bearing of publicke burdeins, nor to forwardnes in the publicke cause, quherby Malignants are multiplied; yea, some are so grosse heirin, that even in publicke fasts, litle or nothing is to be heard from them sounding this way.

5. Some account it a point of wisdome to speake ambiguouslie; some inclyne to justifie the wicked cause, vttering wordes which savour of disaffection; and all ther complaining of the tymes is in such a way as may steale the hearts of people from lykeing of good instruments in this worke, and consequentlie from Gods cause; yea some, reading publicke orders, are ready to speake against them in ther private conference.

6. Idlenes, either in seldome preaching, as once on the Lords day, or in preparation for publicke dueties, not being given to reading and meditation: others have bot fitts of paines, not lyke other tradsmen, continuallie at ther worke.

7. Want of zeale and love to the conversion of soules, not being weighted with the want of successe in reclaimeing of sinners, nor searching in themselves the cause of nocht profiteing; preaching *ex officio*, nocht *ex conscientie officij*.

8. Selfe seeking in preaching, and a venting rather of their wit and skill, then shewing foorth of the wisdome and power of God.

9. Lifelesnes in preaching, not studieing to be furnished by Christ with power, and so the ordinance of God reacheth not to the conscience; and heirto belongeth the not applying of the doctrine vnto the auditorie and tymes.

10. The indiscreit cureing of the indiscretion of pious people and ministers, quherby godlines hath gotten a deepe wound, and profanitie hath lifted vp the head, contrarie to that wise and gracious order set foorth in the Generall Assemblie holden at Edinburgh 1641.

11. Litle care to furnish our Armie, either abroad or at home, with ministers: One of our greivous sins, and causes of our calamitie.

12. Last, it is to be feared that Ministers in secreit are negligent to wrestle in prayer, for a blessing to be poured out vpon ther labours, contenting themselves with the publicke performances.

REMEDIES.

1. First, That Presbyteries make great conscience to have all vacant places within ther severall bounds filled with godlie and able men, quher ever they be to be found: And that vnder pretence of being a helper or second to another, none be taken in bot such as are able for the same charge.

2. Whereas it is knowen that private tryalls in Presbyteries are for the most part perfunctorious, the brethren are heirby exhorted to be more serious, and faithfull heirin, as they wilbe ansuerable to Christ, the cheife shepherd. And in a way prævious therto, that brethren be frie in loving admonition, one of another secretlie, from tyme to tyme; and that quhosoever keepes not the Presbyterie or Synod, after grave admonitions, may come vnder further censures.

3. That acuracie be vsed at Visitation of kirks; and that the Elders, one by one, (the rest being removed), be called in, and examined vpon the Ministers behaviour in his calling and conversation.

4. That course be taken to divyde congregations in parts, and by the help, not only of Elders in ther severall parts, bot of neighbours also, the evills and neglects of persons and families may be found out and remedied.

5. That everie Minister be humbled for his former failings, and make his peace with God, that the more effectuallie he may preach repentance, and may stand in the gape, to turn away the Lords wrath; runneing betweene the Porch and the Altar, sighing and crying for all the abhominations of the land.

6. Speciall care wold be had, that all Ministers have ther conversation in heaven, mainlie mynding the things of God, and exercising faith for drawing life out of Jesus Christ, the fontaine of life, armeing themselves therby with power against the contagion and wickednes of the world.

7. Care wold be had of godlie conference in Presbyteries, even in tyme of ther refreshment; and the Moderator is to looke to it, that good mater be furnished therto.

8. It is also verie necessarie for everie Minister, that wold be fruitfull in the worke of the Lord, to bring home the word of God to his owne heart and conscience by prayer and meditation, both befor and after the publicke ordinance.

9. Vse wold be made of the Roll of the paroch, not only for examination, bot also for considdering the severall conditions and dispositions of the people, that accordinglie they may be admonished, and prayed for by the Ministers in secreit.

10. It is verie expedient that Ministers have more communion among themselves, for ther mutuall stirreing vp and strengthening of ther hands in the Lords worke, and rectifieing of these quho are nocht incorrigible.

11. That Ministers in all sorts of companie labour to be fruitfull, as the salt of the earth, seasoning them they meitt with; not only forbearing to drinke healths (Satans snare leading to excesse) bot reproveing it in others.

12. All Ministers wold be carefull to cherish the smoaking flaxe of weake beginnings in the wayes of God, and ought couragiouslie to oppose all mockers and revylers of the godlie.

13. As at all tymes, so speciallie now, quhen the Lord is calling vs to ane account, it becomes the Ministers of Christ, with all diligence and faithfulnes, to improve ther ministrie to the vtmost, to be instant in season and out of season; yea, even frugallie to employ ther tyme in private, in reading of and meditateing on Scripture, that the Word of God may dwell plentifullie in them.

14. That the provydeing the Armies with Ministers be preferred to any congregation; and these who are appointed to attend the same and are deficient, be, without delay, severelie censured according to the Act of the Generall Assemblie. And that all Ministers, not only in publicke, pray for our Armies, speciallie these that are to encounter with the bloodie enemie within the land, bot also continuallie beare them vp befor the Lord; that their lyves being reformed, thair hearts and hands may be strengthened, and thair vndertakings at last blessed of God with successe.

15. That besyde all other scandalls, silence, or ambiguous speaking in the Publicke cause, much more detracting and disaffected speaches, be seasonablie censured: And to this effect, all honest hearted brethren wold firmelie vnite themselves in the Lord, the younger honouring the elder, and the elder not despiseing the younger.

16. And finallie, both for the corruption of the Ministrie, and remedies therof, we referre the brethren to the Act of the Generall Assemblie at Edinburgh 1596, revived in the late Assemblie at Glasgow 1638, to be found in the printed Act concerning the same.

Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to attend Cambus regiment 15 dayes.

This tyme the Preſbyterie were interrupted of meeting by the great troubles of the countrey.

September 17.—The Preſbyterie ſeriouſlie conſiddering the late wonderfull and glorious victorie at Philiphauch over the rebells, being deſirous to performe publicke thankſgiveing to God for the ſame, als ſolemnlie as may be, and being loath to delay the ſame, have appointed the nixt Lords day to be a preparation for the ſame, and the Lords day nixt following a day of ſolemne thankſgiving.

The Preſbyterie, conſiddering quhat is ther duetie at this tyme toward ſuch as have kythed themſelves evill affected to the worke of God in thir kingdomes, in this tyme of our calamitie, and that ther be diverſe rankes of them; ſome quho have opinlie kythed the ſame, and beene corrupters of others, ſuch are appointed to be very peremptorlie dealt with in rebuikeing and cenſuring of them; for others quho have not proceeded ſo farre, and yet through weaknes and being tempted, have beene readie to curſe the worke, and to judge of the cauſe by the effects, and to curſe thoſe quhom the Lord hath employed as ſpeciall inſtruments therin, yea have beene on the brinke of forſakeing the Covenant,—Miniſters are exhorted, both in ther doctrine and vtherwayes, to ſett foorth the greivouſnes of that ſinne of murmureing, and quhat the woefull conſequences therof may be, and no queſtion will be, if not ſeriouſlie repented for.

Becauſe the Provinciall now approaches, it is thoght fitt the practiſe of the Directorie of Worſhip be delayed till a courſe be ſett downe by them for vniformitie. In the meanetyme miniſters are appointed to be making way for the ſame, by giving information to ther people, both in ther publicke doctrine and vtherwayes theranent.

October 1.—A ſupplication preſented be Andro Strang in Pittenweeme, deſireing that his wife Chriſtane Roch, incarcerate for a witch a long tyme ſince, and yet not put to tryell, may be enlarged. The anſwer is referred till the nixt day.

October 8.—The Preſbyterie, having ſeene and conſiddered of the dilations againſt Chriſtane Roch, doe thinke ſhee ſhould be put to a tryell.

November 6.—*Carmichaell Warloch.*—The dilations againſt Andro Carmichaell, in the paroch of Dininnow, incarcerate in St. Andros for a warloke, being red and conſiddered, advyce was given that he might be enlarged, vpon caution to returne to ward againe quhenſoever he ſall be called by the Judges.

Januar 21, 1646.—*Support for Craill.*—The brethren are exhorted to deale with ther parochiners to contribute for the help of the towne of Craill now in ther great calamitie.

Februar 25.—This day the Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comittee of Eſtaites, deſireing the names of all the killed in this ſervice, together with the number of orphanes and widowes, and ther ſeverall ages and caſes, may be ſent to them. All are appointed to vſe diligence heirin.

May 6.—This day the Preſbyterie mett at the new erected Kirk of Camrone, for admitting of Mr. George Nairne miniſter therat.

May 21.—*Melvill prohibite to give the Communion.*—The Preſbyterie, being informed that Mr. Johne Melvill intends to celebrate the ſacrament of the Lords Supper the nixt Lords day, doe appoint him to ceaſe therin, till they comon with him anent the eſcapes he committed the laſt occaſion he had of that kynd.

May 21.—*Abercrombie and St. Minnance.*—The quhilk day Sir James Sandielands of St. Minnance gave in a ſupplication to the Preſbyterie, in name of himſelfe and the inhabitants of the towne and lands of St. Minnance, deſireing the forſaid towne and lands of St. Minnance to be diſmembered from the paroch of Kilconquhar, for ſeverall reaſons; and containeing ſeverall reaſons quherfor the Kirk of St. Minnance in that caſe ſould be the place of meeting for publicke worſhip, and that the Preſbyterie wold concurre for obtaineing heirof. The Preſbyterie heartilie approves the ſame, and promiſes to vſe ther beſt endeavores for accelerating therof; and appoints a letter to be written to my Lord Balcarras, patron of Kilconquhar paroch, to that effect, and the Laird of Kincraig to declare the ſame to the Seſſion of Kilconquhar, that they may declare their mynd heiranent to the Preſbyterie at Kilconquhar the nixt day.

May 27.—*Forrett admitted in Kilconquhar.*—The Preſbyterie mett at Kilconquhar for receaving Mr. David Forrett.

Abercrombie and St. Minnance.—The Seſſion of Kilconquhar approven the motion of diſmembring the towne and lands of St. Minnance from them, and adjoyning them to Abercrombie, provydeing it prejudice neither their miniſters manteinance, the fabrick of ther kirk, nor the patrones right. Mr. Robert Wilkie, being heard in that mater, ſubmitted his part to the Preſbyterie. Mr. Robert Traill and Kincraig are appointed to deſire the Laird of St. Minnance to put all things on his part to a point, whither anent ſtipend, manſe, gleib, paſturage, or any thing of that kynd.

June 24.—A letter appointed to be written to the Comiſſion for plantation of Kirks, earneſtlie recomending the vniteing of Abercrummie and St. Minnance in a paroch, and Sir James Sandielands deſired to ſecure quhat he conditions to that purpoſe.

July 15.—*Doctrine.*—The doctrine, Joh. 6, v. 62, 63, 64, 65, delyvered by Mr. Johne Melvill, being examined, he was cenſured for impertinent citation of Scripture, five or ſix ſeverall tymes, to prove points; for vſeing impertinent epithets, and for indiſtinct ſpeaking in prayer.

September 2.—*Anſtruther Malignant.*—The quhilk day information being given to the Preſbyterie againſt Johne Anſtruther, burges in Anſtruther-Eaſter, of ſundrie groſſelie impious and malignant ſpeeches vttered by him, the Preſbyterie appoints him to be ſumond againſt the nixt day of ther meeting.

Pittenweeme, September 14.—*Anſtruther.*—Compeired Johne Anſtruther, and appealed from the Preſbyterie to the Provinciall Aſſemblie. The Preſbyterie, notwithſtanding of his pretended reaſons for his appeale, and his exceptions againſt any of the witneſſes, after mature deliberation, reſolves to put the mater to a tryell.

The witneſſes, being called and verie ſolemnlie ſworne, did depone as followeth. Mr. James Richardſone did depone as followeth.

1. That in a jearing way, calling miniſters, monkes and freirs, he ſaid, "Tak vp your bleſſed Vnion! by Jeſus Chriſt the curſedeſt Vnion that ever we ſaw."

2. That he ſaid, miniſters had nothing now to ſpeake of, bot to preach

of the troubleſome dayes, and ther owne particular, and to get great ſtipends; "Quhat vengeance ailes them now, more than the miniſters of old, whoſe ſtipends was but litle, foure or fyve hundreth merks?"

3. He ſaid, ſpeaking of miniſters, "O yee Scrybes and Phariſies, woe be vnto yow, yee ſitt in Moſes ſeate; yee bring no other thing in the Kirk diſcipline bot tradition;" and ſwore by Chriſt, they mixed all ther doctrine with tradition.

4. That he ſwore by Chriſt, that all the miniſters of Scotland were menſworne and perjured men, becauſe they had preached and ſworne to maintaine the religion as it was profeſſed of old, and they had brought in a Directorie diſchargeing reading in churches.

5. That he prophanelie aſked, quhat he could doe, till the laſt bell on the Lords day, bot goe and drinke a chopping of wyne.

6. That he not onlie affirmed, bot horriblie ſwore, by Gods wounds, that all the miniſters were perjured and menſworne men, and ſaid he wold avow and maintaine this before the Preſbyterie.

Mr. James Anderſone did depone as followeth.

1. That he heard Johne Anſtruther ſpeake of the Vnion of thir kingdomes in a tanting way, and ſaying, "O bleſſed Vnion!" and that after that he called it "A curſed Vnion."

2. That he heard the ſaid Johne, ſpeaking of miniſters ſtipends, and how frugallie ſome befor did live vpon litle ſtipends, and that he ſaid, "What vengeans ailes them now?"

3. That he heard him ſay, "Yee Scribes and Phariſies ſitt in Moſes ſeatte;" and that he ſaid, "Take heid that yee mixe not your doctrine with your owne traditions."

4. That he heard him ſweare by Jeſus Chriſt, that the miniſters were perjured; and that he heard him diſallow the Directorie.

5. That he heard him ſwear, by Gods wounds, that the miniſters were perjured and menſworne men.

The Preſbyterie, finding the ſpeaches as deponed to, to be ſo full of impietie and Malignancie, have referred the whole mater to the Comiſſion of the Kirk to be judged of.

Januar 13, 1647.—*Reſtraint of Fornication.*—The Preſbyterie, ſerioufflie

conſiddering the great abounding of that vyle ſinne of vncleannes, doe appoint miniſters to deale earneſtlie with magiſtrates in burghes, and gentlemen and Seſſions in landward, that they will be more carefull to put the Acts of Parliament to full execution againſt ſuch perſons.

Januar 27.—*Diſtreſſed people of Argyle.*—This day the Preſbyterie received ane letter from the Comiſſion of the Kirk, declareing the deploreable condition of the poore people of Argyle, together with ane Act of Parliament, recomending them to the charitie of all good Chriſtians within the kingdome. The Preſbyterie, apprehending the great outcrying this may produce, to have a collection in theſe bounds quher ther are ſo many poore widowes, orphanes, poore fathers and mothers, quho lived by ther children, to quhom help was promiſed by the Parliament, and are yet neglected, doe appoint Mr. George Hamilton to repreſent the ſame to the Comiſſion of the Kirk, and crave ther advyce.

Februar 10.—This day the Preſbyterie mett at Forgan for admiſſione of Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, miniſter ther.

March 10.—*Widowes.*—Mr. Robert Traill declared, that ther was no poſſible meanes of getting any courſe laid downe by the Parliament at this tyme for the help of oure poore widdowes, orphanes, old fathers and mothers quho lived by ther children, and the reſt quho are in neceſſitie by the killing of theſe quho belonged to them, in England and at home.

March 24.—*Salt pannes.*—Anent ſalt pannes. The ſalters in Craill cannot be gotten ſo tryed nor reſtrained as they ought, through the want of a miniſter. For Pittenweeme pannes they goe not.

Reference to the Provinciall.—Whereas it is regrated by the Preſbyterie that the ſinne of drunkennes does greatly abound in this Shyre, eſpeciallie amongſt theſe of greater ſort, it is referred to the Provinciall to lay downe ſome courſe how it may be reſtrained.

Apryle 14.—*Parties maried whoſe humours cannot aggrie.*—Mr. Robert Wilkie declareing, that a man and a woman latelie maried in his paroch, whoſe humours cannot comply together, yea, that the one is feared for bodilie harme of the other, he is appointed to vſe all meanes to informe them of the covenant and oath of God, quherby they have bound themſelves mutuallie.

May 6.—*Abercornes children.*—The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, deſireing vs to take inſpection both of my Lord Paiſley,[1] his attendants, as alſo of his education, conſiddering that he is a nobleman come of Popiſh parents. The Preſbyterie recomends the care heirof to the miniſters of St. Andros.

May 27.—*Preſbyterie meeting at Anſtruther.*—The Preſbyterie mett at Anſtruther Eaſter, and concluded the place of ther ordinar meeting to be ther ſo long as the Plague continues in St. Andros; and reſolved to meete bot once in fourteene dayes, becauſe of the danger of frequent meeting.

June 24.—*Fyres on Midſummer-even referred.*—The Preſbyterie finding that, notwithſtanding of Actes made againſt the ſuperſtitious ſetting out of fyres on Midſummer even, yet it is ſtill practiſed by many; the Preſbyterie refers the ſame to the Provinciall Aſſemblie.

September 15.—*Mertins cenſure for putting violent hands on the Miniſter.*—Compeired befor the Preſbyterie Agnes Mertin, quho confeſſing putting violent hand on the miniſter and curſeing him, they did appoint her to ſitt foure Sabbothes in ſackecloth, in the publicke place of repentance. And recomends to the magiſtrates, that they wilbe carefull to inflict ſuch civile puniſhments as they ſall find meitt for ſo haynous and groſſe a fault.

Nov. 3.—*Sharp preſented to Craill.*—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie received a preſentation from the Erle of Craufurd, patron of the paroch of Craill, nominateing and preſenting Mr. James Sharp, Regent, to be miniſter at the ſaid kirk, and requyreing the Preſbyterie to enter him to his tryalls for that effect. The miniſters of St. Andros are appointed to advertiſe the ſaid Mr. James Sharp to be preſent the nixt day.

Nov. 17.—*Sharp to Craill.*—Compeired comiſſioners from the paroch of Craill, deſireing the Preſbyterie to proceid in putting Mr. James Sharp to his tryalls, according to the preſentation given in the laſt day, and requeiſting [them] to accelerate the ſame. The ſaid Mr. James being aſked, did ſubmitt himſelfe to the Preſbyterie, proteſting that if he be called to that charge, thair be a tymeous proviſion of a helper with him therin. The comiſſioners from Craill did vndertake to give the ſaid Mr. James ſatiſfaction in that deſire at the Preſbyteries ſight. Wherevpon, the Preſby-

[1] James, Lord Paisley, eldest son of James, second Earl of Abercorn.

terie did appoint him, for the firſt part of his tryall, the contraverſie *De Judice contraverſiarum.*

December 1.—Mr. James Sharp gave in his theſes to be agitate the nixt day.

December 25.—The diſcourſe delyvered by Mr. James Sharp on the contraverſie *De Judice contraverſiarum,* and diſputs following thervpon, cenſured and approven. He is appointed to adde the nixt day. As alſo, he hath aſſigned to him that text, Eph. 3. 15, 16, 17, for ane popular ſermon.

December 29.—The doctrine, Joh. 8. v. 1, 2, 3, delyvered by Mr. Robert Weyms, and addition by Mr. James Sharp, cenſured and approven. For accelerating Mr. James Sharp his tryalls, the Preſbyterie are to meitt the morne eight dayes, the 6 of Januar, for hearing his popular ſermon.

Januar 13, 1648.—The Preſbyterie mett in the New Colledge Schooles, for hearing Mr. James Sharp on the tongues, in caticheticke queſtions, and chronologie; in all which he was approven: As alſo, he is fullie approven by all, in all the parts of his tryalls in relation to that charge quhervnto now he is called. Mr. James Makgill is appointed to ſerve his edict the nixt Lords day, and to return the anſuer therof to the miniſters of St. Andros, Mr. John Barron and Mr. Walter Comrie, on Wedinſday; and if nothing be objected at that tyme, the day of his admiſſion is appointed to be this day fyfteen dayes, quher Mr. James Bruce is to preach.

Januar 27.—*Sharps Admiſſion.*—The Preſbyterie mett at Craill for admiſſion of Mr. James Sharp, miniſter ther, quher Mr. James Bruce did preach.

March 8.—Whereas ther is a ſuperſtitious practiſe of makeing graves vpon the Lords day, quher it may be convenientlie eſchewed, the Preſbyterie doe appoint, that no graves be made vpon the Lords day, bot in caſe of urgent neceſſitie allowed by the Miniſter and Seſſion.

Apryle 26.—*Balfour.*—Compeired Andro Balfour, diſſobedient to the Seſſion of Largo, quho confeſſing that he called a woman in Largo theife, lyar, he is appointed either to prove her a theife, vtherwayes to ſatiſfie the ordinance of the Seſſion.

M'Allum to be writen for.—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering how neceſſar it is that ſuch as have the Iriſh tongue be trained at ſchooles and colledges,

for the better planting of kirks in the Highlands, and being certainelie informed of the good hopes of Zacharias M'Allum, ſonne to Mr. Archibald M'Allum, that he is a quicke youth capable of learning, and that his father is not able to traine vp his children that way, doe appoint Mr. James Wood to ſend for the ſaid Zacharias M'Allum to come heir for that effect, and the Preſbyterie are willing to take the burden of his intertainment till the Provinciall Aſſemblie.

May 17.—No exerciſe this day, in regard of neceſſar deſpatch of publicke buſſines.

Letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie.—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie: The tenour quhairof followes:—

REVEREND BRETHREN,

IN our letter of the last of March to the Synods, which we suppose all of you have seene and pervsed, we did acquaint you with our desires, given in to the Honorable Estates of Parliament about that tyme, and since after some conferences had, and some papers interchanged, betuixt ther Lordships and vs vpon these desires, whilst we had received no satisfaction therto, they wer pleased to fall vpon the consideration of the breaches of the Treatie and Covenant, and have resolved to send demands vnto the Parliament of England for reparation therin. One of these demands concerning religion, haveing first voted the same, without our advyse and consent was sought therto, they did therafter communicate vnto vs, that we might returne our thoughts thervpon. In ansuer to which, after some [1] of ther laying asyde ther former way of applications, both to the King and the Parliament of England, and of ther encroacheing vpon the liberties of the Kirk by ther taking resolution in that which concernes religion without vs, and conceiving the demand (incace it sould be refuised) to be intended as a ground of warre, we delayed to give any judgement therof vntill our former desires sould be first satisfied. And withall, intreating that ther Lordships wold be pleased to communicate vnto vs ther resolutions vpon the whole mater, that we might sie that all things were so caried on as wold contribute for secureing of Religion, and preserving the Vnion betuixt the Kingdomes. And therafter did present vnto ther Lordships ane humble and earnest Petition, pressing ane ansuer to our former desires, and containeing ane exoneration of ourselves and of the Kirk of Scotland, if they sould refuse to hearken thervnto. Which ther Lordships having considdered, did, after some dayes, communicate vnto vs a Declaration, containeing the grounds and resolutions of the Parliament vpon the whole mater, together with another paper, which referreth vs to the Declaration for satisfaction of our eight desires, containeing ther ansuer to the other particulars, which we had added to our Petition, and in our ansuer vpon the demand

[1] Blank in the record.

concerning religion, and intimateth to vs that in these things in ther Declaration which concerne religion, they wilbe readie to heare and considder the advyse of the Comission of the Kirk. Bot, after peruseall of the Declaration, and of the other papers, we are farre from finding satisfaction to our first desires, or to the others particulars afterwards given in by vs to ther Lordships, which, as we have alreadie expressed in a part, by a paper of the 25 of this instant; so we resolve, in a verie short tyme, more fullie to represent to ther Lordships, and concerning the libertie of the Kirk to be verie farre prejudged by the Parliaments proceeding to determine in those things which so neirlie and highlie concerne religion without the advyse and consent of the Kirk, (many considerable members of Parliament, quho have beene of constant integritie in the cause of God, in open Parliament dissenting therfrom, and protesting against the same for the liberties of the Kirk,) we found ourselves necessitate to protest for the preservation of the liberties of the Kirk, according to the Word of God, solemne Covenants, former Lawes, and laudable custome of this Kirk and Kingdome, and that the Act of Parliament be no preparative for the future, and that it salbe yet frie vnto vs, according to the duetie of onr place, and as ther salbe cause, to give our judgement in ane ecclesiasticall way, of the materialls of the said Declaration, so farre as religion is therin concerned, als frielie as if ther Lordships had taken no resolution thervpon. But we hope in a short time to give yon more full and perfyte intimation of all these things, by sending the papers themselves, and therfor sould now have beene silent were it nocht that we are not ignorant of the devyses of malignant and disaffected men, quho doe endeavour nothing more diligentlie than (if it be possible,) by subtile wordes and faire speaches on the one syde, and slanderons and false reports on the other, to gaine some of the ministrie to be subservient to ther designes against the Kirk and the cause of God, knowing that by this meanes especiallie, it was that the libertie of this Kirk was betrayed, and the pure ordinances of Christ corrupted of befor. These things we speake not as if we were effrayed of any of you, our deare brethren; we hope that after so many teares and temptations, so many prayers and supplications, so great power of the Lords hand in delyvering vs from so great a yocke of bondage, and after so many vowes and promises, everie minister within the land will abhorre to be accessorie to any thing that may promove the purposes of these quho studie to vndermyne the worke of God. Nay, these many Letters to ourselves, and Supplications to the Parliament from many Synods and Presbyteries, as they are vnto vs mater of much refreshing in the midst of many difficulties and straites, quherwith God is pleased to exercise vs, so we take them for evidences of the stedfastnes of these from quhom they have come: And albeit, all have not had the opportunitie to expresse themselves that way, yet we make no question of ther constancie, and that they wilbe readie to witnes ther affection to the cause of God, as they sall sie need. Bot as fellow labourers quho are employed with you in the same worke of the Lord, we give you warneing of the danger, and stirre you vp to be earnest with God in prayer and supplication for your owne stedfastnes, so to give faithfull and tymeous warneing vnto all with quhom yee have to doe against all the snares and tentations of these tymes; and that yee may now so carie yourselves in all things, that quhen the Lord salbe pleased to bring his servants together in a Generall Assemblie, all of thame may come thither furnished with

the spirit of integritie, vnitie, and zeale, that so the boasteing of adversaries may be put to silence, and ther hopes blasted, quhen they sall sie vs to be of one mynd, and heare vs speake the same thing, for carieing on the worke of the Gospell, and obviateing everie danger that threatens the same at home and from abroad; which, as we trust, will be the endeavore of all Presbyteries, so it is the earnest desire and prayer of

Your affectioned brethren the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

Sic subscribitur. MR. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderatour.*

Edinburgh, 28 Apryle 1648.

Postscript.—It is evident from the premisses, how great and many difficulties the Kirk of God in this land is brought vnder, by reason of the sinnes and provocations of his people; as also, how deepe a revolting from the cause of God many are come to, and quhat cause we have to feare the overturneing of all that God has done for vs; therefor, we have resolved that ther sould be a fast keeped in all the Congregations of this land the last Sabboth of May, for intreating the Lord for mercie and help in this day of our great neid, which we desire you keepe in your severall congregations. We doubt nocht, yee wilbe carefull that such of your number as are of this Comission keepe the next quarter meeting, the last Wednisday of May.

Sic subr. MR. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderator.*

Edinburgh 1 May 1648.

Supplication to the Comittee of the Shyre.—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering that to morrow the Comittee of Warre of this ſhyre are to receive orders from the honorable Eſtates of Parliament, tending to engadgement in warre, doe find themſelves oblidged in conſcience to ſupplicate the ſaid honorable Comittee; the tenour quhairof followis:

VNTO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE COMITTEE OF WARRE OF THE SHYRE OF FYFE, THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF ST. ANDROS;

SHEWETH,

THAT quheras the happie successe in promoveing the ends of our National Covenant, and of the Solemne League and Covenant, hathe alwayes flowed from the firm vnion of counsell and endeavoures of State and Church joyntlie, we cannot bot conceive great feares of the imminent dangers to the cause of God within this land, that engadgeing in warre is so farre advanced by the high and honorable Court of Parliament, the just desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and of the most parts of the Provinciall Synods within this kingdome, being as yet altogether vnsatisfied; We therfor make this our addresse vnto your Honours, earnestlie intreating you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Chryst, that, according to your wonted and exemplarie zeale in the cause of God, yee wilbe pleased, in this tyme of neid, to interpose your most earnest supplication to the high and honorable Court of Parliament and ther Comittee, that ther be no further progresse toward a warre, till courses be aggried vpon for secureing Religion and

suppressing Malignants, aswell as Sectaries; which we humble conceive is not as yet done. Your Honours have reason with vs to insist in pressing the peaceable way of treating with the Parliament of England, befor violent wayes be attempted, the event quherof is so vncertaine; first, because the honorable Court of Parliament of this kingdome, in there late Declaratione, have declared ther resolution not to engadge in warre till the lawfulnes and necessitie therof be cleared, so that all well affected (among them we constantlie are,) be satisfied in ther consciences. As also, because the Houses of Parliament in England are so farre advanced toward satisfactorie answers to ther demands, as appeares by ther late votes.

Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. James Bruce, and Sir James Lumiſdell, appointed to preſent the ſame.

May 24.—*Supplication of the ſhyre to be approven and inſert in Seſſion bookes.* The Preſbyterie, being certainelie informed of the paines taken be ſome in procureing ſubſcriptions to a proteſtation againſt the humble Supplication of the Comittee of Warre, by Preſbyteries and Burghes of this ſhyre, and the Vniverſitie of St. Andros, doe appoint brethren to be carefull to acquaint ther people of the evills heirof; as alſo, that they crave the conſent and approbation of the ſeverall Seſſions to the humble Petition of this Preſbyterie to the honorable Comittee of Warre in this ſhyre, and that it may be regiſtrate in the ſeverall Seſſion bookes of this Preſbyterie, and report ther diligence heirin.

May 31.—*Letter to the Parliament.*—The Preſbyterie doe appoint ther reverend and welbeloved brethren, Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett, to preſent to the honorable Eſtates of Parliament, the Anſuer condiſcended vpon by vs to ther Letter, of the date Edinburgh May 11 1648; the tenour of which Anſuer followes:

OUR VERIE NOBLE AND MOST HONORABLE LORDS,

IF it had bene within the reach of our power conscionablie to have followed the direction of your Letter, that had beene, we confesse, the only desireable ansuer to the same; but seeing the sinnes of the land hath procured this mist vpon publicke counsells, that we cannot sie how to act as your Lordships direct, least therfor our silence sould be misinterpreted, we found ourselves oblidged in all humilitie, in the feare of the Lord, to returne this Ansuer to your Lordships.

Who these are that hate his Majesties person, and being lovers of Sectaries within this land, doe cast aspersions or raise calumnies vpon your Lordships proceedings, we professe vnfainedlie we know not, and if we knew it, wold be readie in our way to censure them; bot we acknowledge ther be many, (among quhom we professe our selves,) quho heartilie approve

Monarchicall governement in his Majesties person and posteritie, and hateing Sectaries with a perfect hatred, are loadened with reproaches and calumnies be Malignants and ther favourers, for ther constancie and zeale in the cause of God, and yet are nocht satisfied in your Lordships wayes, as it is brieflie expressed in the joynt Petition of this Shyre, and largelie sett foorth in the Representation of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie. Hardlie could any thing on earth so rejoice our hearts, as the assurance that your Lordships preferred the preservation of Religion to all earthlie things, and were promoveing all the ends of the Covenant, and complying with the desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, as your Lordships professe, which we take as a testimonie from your Lordships justifieing ther desires as lawfull and necessarie; and it salbe our constant prayers to God, that maters may be so caried on by your Lordships to the great joy of all the godlie in the land, and disappointment of Malignants, whose insolencies are growen to a great hight by the too great appearance of the contrarie. As for that part of your Lordships Letter, quherin, with the clearing of your owne proceedings, as no wayes prejudiciall to the liberties of the Kirk, heavie imputations are laid vpon others, we both wish your Lordships way had given reall evidences how farre yee were from taking ane antecedent judgment in maters of religion; and withall, we professe our detestation of that Episcopall disease of authoritative meddleing with civile affairs. Yet this we acknowledge, that, according to the latitude of the Word of God, (which is our theame,) we are allowed to treate, in ane ecclesiasticall way, of greatest and smallest affaires, from the Kings throne that sould be established in righteousnes, to the merchands ballance that sould be vsed in faithfulnes. We know no church judicatorie that makes the Kings negative voyce in Parliament ther theame to dispute; but this we must hold, that all Church judicatories sould take great care that neither Princes nor Parliaments, whether affirmative or negative voyce, prove prejudicall to Religion, the cause of God, and solemne Covenants. Your Lordships citeing that Act of Parliament in the yeer 1584, calls to our mynd the woefull posture of affaires at that tyme, both in State and Church, by a dominireing faction that oppressed the Judicatories of the Kirk so farre that ther Registers were detained from them, and some parts therof torne out, till the Lord, in great mercie to his covenanted people, quicklie dispelled that cloud: And thogh it be certaine that the Act cited was intended at the by, for reestablishing of Prelacie, then ruined by the Nationall Covenant, thrie yeirs befor sworne and subscryved, yet excluding the Prelates from being one of the thrie Estates (as now we hope they are eternallie excluded), we heartilie close with the Act, and say further, That the impugneing, whither of Princes, or Parliaments, or Kirks just authoritie, is a grosse and fearfull breach of our solemne Covenants, and deserves the wrath of God, and damnation, in a high degrie. But withall we vnderstand that ther is a vaste difference betweene power or authoritie, and the proceedings and exercise therof. The one we are sworne not only to impugne, bot to mantaine; the other we may and ought, by the judgment of discretion, to examine, and if we find them opposite to the word of God, and prejudiciall to his cause, ought to obey God rather then men vpon quhatever perrill. We are remitted for full satisfaction by your Lordships to the Declaration sent to vs, which we have dilgentlie red, and seriouslie pondered, and we cannot

find therby a course laid downe for the preservation and the propagation of Religion, and suppressing of Malignants; for we sie not so much as propositions to be presented, let be securitie mantained from his Majestie, till he be in the frie exercise of his royall power, and so als frie to refuse as to grant, which how dangerous it is to religion his Majesties mynd and professed purpose, even in this his low condition, concerning Prelacie and Liturgie being sufficientlie knowen, we leave it to your Lordships to considder; how dangerous also it is, that Malignants, arise-ing in armes, and having bot the cunning to conceale ther intention, sall no wayes be opposed, but rather cherished and strengthened, all quho sufficientlie remembers ther Covenant may evidentlie sie. Notwithstanding all this, that the cause of Engadgement remains the same, (which is your Honours expression,) we professe, in all humble respect to your Lordships, as in the sight of the Searcher of Hearts, we cannot sie, vnles we resolve together to forsake our reason, conscience, and Covenant. The case thus standing, we must of necessitie, with all humilitie and fervencie, intreat your most honourable Lordships not to exact or expect from vs, that we sall, by preaching, prayer, or any other meanes, stirre vp the people to this expedition. The most high and only wise God, befor quhom all nations are as the dust of the ballance, enspyre the hearts of our confederate neighbours to yield to that which is right in his sight, and perswade your Lordships to accept the same: Or if, in his just displeasure against the sinnes of both lands, ther be a necessitie of engadging in a woefull warre, grant that the throne of Christ be established in these lands, and our Kings throne, as a part of the footestoole therof, and that all the enemies of both be effectuallie and spedilie suppressed. So pray

Your Lordships Servants, obedient in Christ, the Presbyterie of St. Andros, by our Moderator, at our command,

Sic subr. SAMUELL RUTHERFUIRD, Moderator.

St. Andros, May 24, 1648.

June 14.—*Act of the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie.*—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie received ane Act of the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, ſerioufliе recomending to Preſbyteries to take ſpeciall notice and tryell of everie brothers cariage in the publicke buſſines at this tyme, that it may be found, quho doe not declare themſelves againſt the preſent Engadgement, nor joyne with the brethren in ther common reſolutions againſt it, nor give publicke information to the people of the vnlawfulnes therof, they may be referred to the next Generall Aſſemblie. And if any have declared themſelves for it, that they be preſentlie cenſured. The whole brethren preſent declared, That they had preached againſt the ſame, and were convinced in ther conſcience, both of the vnneceſſarines and vnlawfulnes of the ſame at this tyme. Only Mr. Johne Barron declared, that as yet he hes neither preached for it nor againſt it, and that he is not as

yet convinced of the vnlawfulnes therof: he defires a tyme to be refolved ere he give a final anfwer.—Granted.

June 21.—*Againft the Band of the late Parliament.*—The Prefbyterie having feene and confiddered the Band or Act of the late Parliament, appointed by the Comittee of Eftates to be fubfcryved by all the fubjects of this kingdome, and finding the fame much prejudiciall to the fettling and eftablifhing of Religion in thefe kingdomes, and contrar to the Solemne League and Covenant, doe appoint brethren in ther places and callings to be carefull to informe the people committed vnto them, that they be not enfnared by any fpecious pretences to fubfcryve the fame.

July 5.—*Nevay, Regent.*—The Prefbyterie being informed that Mr. David Nevay, Regent in St. Leonards Colledge, hath vented diverfe things contrar to the eftablifhed order of this Kirk, as, namelie: 1. That the Church conftitutions have no ftrength, and are not obligatorie, vntill they be confirmed by the civill magiftrate. 2. That Eraftians deferve not to be called Sectaries. He is appointed to be fummond to compeir befor the Prefbyterie this day 15 dayes.

Reference to the Generall Affemblie.—The Prefbyterie does recomend to ther Comiffioners, that they recomend to the Generall Affemblie the appointing the Covenant to be fubfcryved throughout the kingdome.

July 11.—*Patons admiffion.*—The Prefbyterie mett at Kemback for admiffion of Mr. David Paton, minifter ther.

Auguft 2.—*M'Allum.*—The Prefbyterie doe appoint Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyman to aggrie with fome in St. Andros for Zacharias M'Allum (quhom they appointed to be writen for) his buird, till the Provinciall Affemblie.

October 11.—*Ayton.*—Compeired Mr. William Ayton, quho being accufed, if ever he faid, that he repented his fubfcryveing the Solemne League and Covenant, and that he called it a Band, and faid, If he had it he fould tramp it vnder his feete; confeffes that he faid, he repented his fubfcription therof; bot denyed the reft. The Prefbyterie being informed that Mr. Williame Tulliedaffe and Mr. Gilbert Murray were prefent the tyme quhen he fpake thefe things, and being prefent, were defired if they wold declare quhat they knew therin prefentlie; quho confenting, and he

alledging nothing againſt them, being ſworne to declare the truth, did depone as followes.

Mr. William Tulliedaffe deponed, that Mr. William Ayton being reaſoning with ſome ſtudents, (of quhom he was one,) they demanded of him, If he had ſubſcryved the band appointit to be ſubſcryved by the late Parliament? He anſwered, he never ſubſcryved any band bot ane, quhen he was at St. Leonards Colledge, and he repented his ſubſcription therof, and if he had that band he wold ryve it. It being replyed, that nothing of publicke concernment was ſubſcryved at that tyme in the Colledge bot the Solemne League and Covenant. He anſwered, That ſame was it; and repeited the former wordes.

Mr. Gilbert Murray deponed, he heard him ſpeake malignantlie againſt the Solemne League and Covenant; bot did not remember the particular expreſſions he vſed, only that he called the Solemne League and Covenant a Band, and that he ſaid he repented his ſubſcryveing therof.

November 1.—*Ayton.*—The Preſbyterie conſiddering ſeriouſlie quhat Mr. Ayton hath confeſſed, and quhat is clearlie proven againſt him, doe judge it to be groſſe malignancie, and a breach of Covenant; bot he not being ſenſible of the ſinfulnes and guiltines therof, the Preſbyterie referres his cenſure, and appoints Mrs. Samuell Rutherfurd, James Wood, and Andro Honyman, to conferre with him heiranent.

December 7.—*Newton.*—Compeired befor the Preſbyterie Sir Johne Leſlie of Newton, one of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice, quho denyed that he did contribute for the Colledge of Juſtice ther Regiment in the late Engadgement vnder the conduct of Duke Hamilton. For his ſonnes, quho wer commanders in that ſervice, he alledged, that one of them being vpon ſervice formerlie, and the other come to yeirs of diſcretion, they wold not be ruled by him. Confeſſed that he adhered to a Proteſtation at Couper againſt ane Supplication aggried vpon by the Comittee of Warre to the Parliament, for which he profeſſed greife. All which things conſiddered, and his caſe applied to the Act of the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, and ther explanation, the Preſbyterie did debarre him from renewing the Solemne League and Covenant, receaving the ſacrament of the Lords Supper, or having any power or voyce in any of the Judicatories of the Kirk till the nixt Generall Aſſemblie.

December 13.—The draught of the Declaration appointed to be ſubſcryved by theſe quho ſubſcryved the Proteſtation, was red and approven. The tenour quherof followes.

Copie of the Declaration againſt the Proteſtation.—Wee vnderſubſcryvers being now convinced in our conſciences of the vnlawfulnes and ſinfulnes of the late Engadgement againſt the kingdome of England, vnder the conduct of Duke Hamilton, as a moſt foule and haynous breach and violation of our Solemne League and Covenant, according to the many and frequent teſtimonies given againſt the ſame, both by declarations of the Church, and the faithfull preaching of the miniſters of Chriſt, whoſe wordes the Lord hes confirmed by the juſt and vnparalelled ſtroke of his judgement vpon it; and being ſenſible how great a guiltines we have drawn vpon ourſelves, in being acceſſorie to the promoveing and advancement of the ſaid Engadgement by joyneing in and ſubſcryveing a Proteſtation made at Couper againſt a moſt humble Supplication of the Comittee of Warre, all the Preſbyteries, the moſt part of the Burrowes of this ſhyre, and the Univerſitie of St. Andros, given in to the Parliament, humblie deſireing that no engadgement in warre ſould be vndertaken, vntil all amicable and peaceable wayes of aggriement with England ſould be eſſayed, ſecuritie had for religion, and other juſt deſires of the Church ſatiſfied;—Doe heirby ſincerelie declare our deepe ſenſe and heartie ſorrow for our ſaid guiltines, vtterlie diſſallowing, renounceing and deteſting the ſaid Proteſtation, and our ſubſcription therof; and doe promiſe, by the grace of God, that for all tyme comeing we ſall adhere more cloſelie and conſtantlie to our Covenant, and keepe ourſelves from all courſes prejudiciall to the ends therof; and finallie, more conſcionablie to hearken to the faithfull warnings of the ſervants of God from his word. In witnes quherof, we have ſubſcryved theſe preſents with our hands.[1]

December 19.—*Malignant Women.*—The Preſbyterie conſiddering how

[1] A great number of all ranks were at this time brought before the Presbytery for their accession by word or deed to the "Unlawful Engagement," and received sentence according to their degrees of guilt. Those who were debarred from the Communion, &c. were afterwards received into the bosom of the Church, upon declaring their repentance in the presence of the Congregation, and subscribing this Declaration.

ſcandalous it ſould be to admitt women to ſweare the Solemne League and Covenant, or to the Communion, quho are knowen to be malignantlie affected, for removeing quherof it is ordained that miniſters in ther ſeverall congregations try anent ſuch women. And quher the ſcandall is publicke, and proofe therof cleare, ſuch women, before they be admitted to the Covenant or Communion, are appointed to give declaration of ther repentance for that ſinne in publicke befor the congregation. And quher the ſcandall is not ſo publicke, nor particulars ſo clearlie knowen, Miniſters are appointed to deale with ſuch in private, to bring them to a ſenſe of that ſinne, and accordinglie to accept or debarre them from the Covenant and Communion.

Januar 31, 1649.—*Cambo.*—The quhilk day, Sir Patrik Myrton of Cambo did preſent a petition ſubſcryved by him, declareing ſorrow and greife for his acceſſion to the late vnlawfull Engadgement, craveing God pardon for his ſinne heirin, promiſeing by the Lords aſſiſtance to walke more circumſpectlie and watchfullie in all tyme comeing, earneſtlie deſireing vpon his repentance to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion: Which things ſeriouſlie conſiddered, the Preſbyterie did appoint him to make publicke declaration of his repentance befor the congregation, and to ſubſcryve the Declaration againſt the Proteſtation, and therafter to be admitted to the Covenant, and to receive the ſacrament of the Lords Supper.

Rankeilor.—Thomas Rankielor in St. Andros called, compeired not. Theſe things being found to be clearlie proven befor the Seſſion of St. Andros againſt him: That he ſaid, that it was better for vs quhen we lived under Prelacie than now, for then we payed but one taxation in the yeir, but now we pay monthlie; That the King deſired but thrie Biſhops in England, quhilk was very reaſonable; That he wold not goe out to fight for miniſters, nor no other quho wold bidde him; and that he ſaid, The ſubſcryveing of the Covenant brought ane vengeance vpon the land. The Preſbyterie did judge theſe things to be groſs malignancie, and doe debarre him from takeing the Covenant, or receiving the ſacrament of the Lords Supper, till he be made ſenſible of his giltines; and being made ſenſible therof, is appointed to make declaration of his repentance in the publicke place therof in ſackecloth.

March 28.—*Stipends and number of Communicants.*—The Preſbyterie having vſed diligence for getting the ſtipends of the ſeverall miniſters in ther bounds, and the number of communicants, the particulars therin not being as yet exactlie done by everie one, the reſt is referred till after the Provinciall Aſſemblie.

Apryle 25.—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie did admitt my Lord Balcarras to the renewing of the Solemne League and Covenant, quho did ſolemnelie ſweare and ſubſcryve the ſame befor them.

May 2.—[Mr. Thomas Wood, miniſter at Ferrie Partoncraig, dimits his charge on account of bad health.]

June 28.—*Highland Boyes.*—The Preſbyterie doe appoint everie brother to delyver to Mr. James Wood the fourtie ſhillings appointed to be paid for intertaineing Highland boyes at ſchooles.

Auguſt 1.—*Abercromby.*—The quhilk day, ther was repreſented to the Preſbyterie groſſe miſcariages committed by my Lord Abercrombie, in ſtriking ane elder and the kirk bedell in that paroch, for warneing his Ladie to compeir befor the Seſſion of Falkland; quhilk conſiddered, the Preſbyterie doe appoint him to be ſummond to compeir befor the Preſbyterie this day fyftein dayes, for theſe and his ſcandalous intemperance, and other ſcandalous miſcariages. And, in the mean tyme, that the Seſſion of Abercromby may juſtlie delay to vſe any further ſumonds againſt my Ladie, violence being offered and done to the meſſinger, till ſome other courſe be advyſed vpon for ſumonding her.

Auguſt 8.—*Civile Courts for Eccleſiaſticke maters.*—The Preſbyterie does ſeriouſlie recomend to miniſters and ſeſſions that they be carefull to eſtabliſh the civill Courts for eccleſiaſticke maters in ther ſeverall paroches, and carefullnes in trying ther diligence in theſe things recomended to them.

Auguſt 15.—*Act for putting children to Schooles.*—The Preſbyterie being informed that diverſe parents, even in theſe places quher ſchooles are ſettled, doe not put ther children to ſchooles, doe appoint miniſters, in viſiteing families, to take notice quhat children are in everie familie fitt to be put to ſchoole, and to vrge the parents to it, and incace it be not done, that they complain of ther neglect heirin to the ſeſſion; and if ſeſſions omitt to vrge them to it, that it be recomended to the Preſbyterie.

September 12.—*Abercrombie.*—After the Preſbyterie had ſent brethren to conferre with my Lord Abercrombie, anent his beateing the Elder of that Seſſion, and the kirk beddell in executeing his office, and anent his frequent exceſſe in drunkennes, he compeired himſelfe, and did confeſſe frequent groſſe intemperance, and profeſſed willingnes to ſubmitt himſelfe to the Preſbyterie for his ſcandall therin. As for the ſtrikeing of the Elder and Kirk beddell, he acknowledges he did beate them, bot not in relation to execution of Kirk laues; and promiſed to be carefull to forbeare the lyke in all tyme comeing. As alſo, he did promiſe and vndertake to the Preſbyterie, that his Ladie ſall goe to the Seſſion of Falkland, and ther clear herſelfe of that ſcandall alledged againſt her, and to produce a teſtimonie therof from the miniſter of Falkland, befor the enſewing Provinciall Aſſemblie. The Preſbyterie did lykewayes admoniſh him for his ſcandallous abſenting himſelfe from Gods worſhip in his owne congregation, and for intertaineing ill and ſcandalous companie; both quhilk he promiſed to amend. He did lykewayes preſent a ſubſcryved paper, declareing that he had now a great ſenſe of the ſinfulnes of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, and of his ſinfulnes in acceſſion thervnto, humblie deſireing, ſeeing he is ſhortlie to goe aff the kingdome, he may be admitted to declare himſelfe publicklie in theſe things, and ſo be reconciled with the Kirk of God and his people in this land. All which things ſeriouſlie conſiddered, the Preſbyterie, to convince him that it is not his ſhame befor the world they are ſeeking, bot his good, that he may turn from the evill of his wayes and doings to the Lord, doe appoint him to be wiſelie and gravelie admoniſhed, on Sonday come eight dayes, in his owne paroch kirk, for all theſe forementioned ſinnes, and mainlie for his activitie in the late ſinfull Engadgement; and he, profeſſing his griefe and ſorrow for all theſe, and promiſeing to behave himſelfe better in all tyme comeing, is to be received and appointed to ſubſcryve the Declaration of the Generall Aſſemblie.

December 6.—*St. Andros Viſitation.*—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie conveened for viſitation of the kirk of St. Andros, quher Mr. Walter Comrie did preach.

Intimation was publicklie made to the congregation of this Viſitation.

The miniſters being removed, the elders were ſworne to declare quhat they knew of ther miniſters as ſalbe enquyred; and therefter removed and called in ſeverallie and examined anent the ſoundnes, clearneſſe and power of ther doctrine, there catechizing, viſiteing of families, care to have Gods worſhip ſett vp in families, anent a care to have ſinne puniſhed, anent the vprightnes of ther converſation: In all which they did fullie approve them.

The elders removed, and the miniſters called and examined ſeverallie, did everie one of them approve ther collegues as faithfull and painfull in ther callings; as alſo, did approve the elders in holding hand to diſcipline, particularlie that the preſent Magiſtrates gave good aſſiſtance for cenſuring ſcandalous perſons: Only the elders are exhorted to be diligent in obſerving, and faithfull in dilateing, common ſwearers, and ſuch as live intemperatelie, and Sabbath breakers.

The Preſbyterie, in viſiting the condition of the paroch of St. Andros, towne and landward, both paſtors and people, having received ample teſtimonie of the fidelitie and painfulnes of Mr. Andro Honyman, and conſiddering that his preſent manteinance is incompetent, whither in regard of the eminencie of the charge, or living in ſuch a deare place, and that he can nocht well be removed hence, and that it is incumbent to them to ſie how this may be remeided in ane amicable way, do nominate and appoint Mrs. George Hamilton, Colin Adams, David Forrett, Robert Bennett, the Lairds of Moncreiff and Erlſhall, or any thrie of them, to conveene at St. Andros vpon the 18 of this inſtant, with the Magiſtrates, or ſuch others as ſalbe nominate by the Counſell of the ſaid citie for agreeing vpon ane legall courſe how this may be conſtantlie remeided.

Having alſo ſeene and conſiddered that Mr. Robert Blair hath not ane manſs, according to the Acts of Parliament, and that ther be ſome tacks of teynds long ſince given out by his predeceſſors, quherby he is prejudged in his manteinance, do appoint them to conſidder both theſe particulars.

As alſo, ther being ſeverall parts in the landward paroch of St. Andros, lying at a great diſtance from the kirk therof, by reaſon quherof they ſeldome come to the hearing of the Word, and when they come cannot have a commodious place in the kirk for hearing the Word, the number

of the townes people being ſo great; which places lye neir other kirks, where they may be ſerved more commodiouſlie for a tyme, till ſome conſtant courſe be agreed vpon; ſuch as Bonytoun and Cartefuirdmylne to Dininow; Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatta and Boonefield, to Kembak; —doe appoint them to confidder heirof, and report ther diligence in all theſe things the nixt day.

Januar 2.—Abercrombie.—The Preſbyterie doe ordaine the miniſters of St. Andros to delay the baptizeing of my Lord Abercrombies chyld till he cleare that ſcandall raiſed by him of his Ladie, according to the appointment of the Provinciall Aſſemblie.[1]

March 27.—Report of perambulation of the west part of St. Andros paroch. The quhilk day theſe appointed to perambulate the weſt part of the landward paroch of St. Andros, did report ther diligence as followes:—

March 20, 1650.—The quhilk day, Mrs. Patrik Skowgall and Alexander Wedderburne, John Martyne of Lathones, and James Bynning of Dininow, ruling elders, together with Mr. Robert Blair, miniſter of St. Andros, mett at Kinkepill, and from thence did perambulate the weſt parts of the paroch of St. Andros; ſome places whereof they find above thrie myles diſtant from St. Andros, and verie evill way, eſpeciallie in winter, and others two myles diſtant from the ſaid kirk, of verie foull way alſo. As alſo, they find that the number of perſons to be tane charge of will be toward thrie hundreth; and withall find no adjacent kirk to which moſt part of them can be convenientlie annexed. And therfor the perambulaters foirſaid, having ane eye to Gods glorie, the advancement of the Goſpell, and the good of the ſoules of theſe people, declare this to be their humble opinion: That a kirk be erected in the moſt convenient part betweene Kinkepill and Over Strakinneſſe, where all theſe people of Kinkepill, Strakinneſſe Over and Nether, Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatto,

[1] *April* 30, 1650.—The quhilk day, my Lord Abercrumbie had a child baptized, called James, befor honest witnesses. The quhilk bairne (in my Lord his absence) was presented be the Laird of Kilbrackmond, quho oblidged and band himself, befor the minister and two elders, to answer and satisfie for any thing that heirafter should be objected against the said Lord his ladie, anent that scandall at Falkland.—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Abercrombie.* Lady Abercromby was accused by the kirk-session of adultery with Sir Mungo Murray.

and Boonefield, may refort convenientlie, moft part being about halfe a myle diftant from that place, and the furtheft about three quarters of a myle.

The Prefbyterie, having heard and ferioufly confiddered the above written report, did appoint feverall brethren to confidder the bounds of the kirk of St. Andros, and compare it with the number of parochiners, and fie, whither thefe people may be well accommodate there for attending publicke divyne ordinances, and report ther diligence afternoone.

Postmeridiem eodem die.—Thefe appointed to confidder the kirk of St. Andros, whither all the parochiners, towne and landward, can be well accomodate for hearing the Word, receiving of facraments, declared, That they find the kirk fo difponed to the people of the towne and the Univerfitie, that they find no convenient place for thefe people in the landward for keeping publicke performances of worfhip therin, bot leaft of all thefe formerlie nominate. The which report, together with the former, ferioufllie confiddered, the Prefbyterie finds it neceffar, for the reafons above written, that there be a paroch kirk erected according to the foirmentioned report, and referres and recomends the fame to the Provinciall Affemblie, that they may recomend and referre the fame to the Generall Affemblie for advancing fo pious and neceffar a worke.

March 27.—Diligence for changing Monday and Saturdays mercats.—The Prefbyterie doe appoint the feverall brethren in burghes, to deale with fuch as have not changed ther Mondayes and Satterdayes mercats to other dayes of the weeke, that they may doe the fame *primo quoque tempore.*

Reference concerning purgeing of Seffions.—The Prefbyterie confiddering how neceffar a thing it is, tending much to the vindication of the governement of Chrifts Kirk, and the advancement of the Gofpell, that purgeing Seffions of ignorant and profane members be univerfall through the kingdome, and that a tyme be limited heirto, and Seffions obleift to report ther diligence to Prefbyteries, etc., with peremptor certifications, doe referre the fame to the Provinciall Affemblie, to be by them referred and recomended to the nixt General Affemblie.

April 24.—Wilfons admiffion at Camrone.—The Prefbyterie met at

Camrone, where Mr. Robert Blair did preach, Jer. 3, v. 14, and Mr. Alexander Wilſon admitted miniſter ther.

May 1.—*Voluntar contribution for Stonehaven appointed.*—The Preſbyterie having conſiddered the Petition preſented the former day in name of the towne of Stonehaven, ſhewing the great prejudice that hath and may come to ſhips and barkes goeing alongs to, or comeing from the North fiſhing, through want of ane ſafe harbour ther, and ther owne inhabilitie for repareing and building therof, being twyſe burnt by the mercileſſe, bloodie, excommunicate rebell, James Grahame; and therfor earneſtlie ſupplicateing for ſome charitable ſupplie to the effect foirſaid, which is alſo affiſted by ane Act of Parliament, and ane Act of recomendation from the Provinciall of Angus and Mernes, together with a letter of recomendation from the Preſbyterie of Mernes. The Preſbyterie, conſiddering the reaſonablenes of the deſire, doe appoint the brethren to intimate a voluntar contribution in ther ſeverall congregations, (and eſpeciallie recomends the ſame to burghes in the coaſtſyde quho are moſt intereſt therin,) to collect and bring in ther contributions, to be delivered to William Gregorie appointed collector by them for that effect.

New Pſalmes.—The Preſbyterie received a letter with 22 copies of the late paraphraſe of the Pſalmes of David in meeter, which comeing late, is referred to the nixt day.[1]

May 8.—*New Pſalmes to be intimate.*—The Preſbyterie having received copies of the new paraphraſe of the Pſalmes of David in meeter, and conſiddered the ſame, doe appoint the ſeverall brethren to make intimation of the practiſeing therof in congregations and families, to beginne the firſt Lords day of June in this Preſbyterie.

May 15.—*Thankſgiving for the victorie againſt Grahame.*—The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, ſhewing, that Thureſday the 23 of this inſtant is appointed for a day of ſolemne thankſgiving to God for the late glorious and ſeaſonable victorie againſt excomunicate, bloodie, perfidious James Grahame and his aſſociates.

[1] This was the version of the Psalms by Francis Rous, revised by a Committee of the General Assembly, which was then authorized, and still continues to be used in the Scottish Church.

May 29.—Lyall ſuſpended from elderſhip.—Compeired William Lyall, quho confeſt ſlighting the ordinance of the Preſbyterie, and being found ignorant and ſtubborne, the Preſbyterie did ſuſpend him from the office of elderſhip till he give proof of better carriage; and appoints him to come to the Seſſion and heir the ſentence of the Preſbyterie intimate ther, vtherwayes appoints it to be intimate out of pulpitt.

June 5.—Promiſcuous Danceing.—All quho have not, are appointed to intimate the Act of the Generall Aſſemblie diſcharging promiſcuous danceing.

June 12.—Anſtruther excomunicate.—The Preſbyterie having ſeriouſlie conſiddered the atrocitie of Jhone Anſtruther his ſinneing, quho, being entruſted by diverſe honeſt men with ane ſhippe and merchant goods, went away vnder Kirk cenſures, and did not offer ſatiſfaction according to order; and being away, did joyne with excomunicate accurſed Grahame, and turned pirate vnder him, called in diverſe ſeafareing men on ther lawfull tradeing, and examined them, requyred vnlawfull oathes of ſome, hath taken ſeverall ſhippes, ſpoyled many honeſt men of ther goods, hath mocked God and his people latelie in profeſſing publicke repentance for groſſe malignancie proven againſt him; doe therfor appoint him to be ſummarlie excomunicate the nixt Lords day by the miniſter of Anſtruther Eaſter.

June 19.—Report of perambulations of Couper and St. Andros.—Followes the Report of theſe appointed for perambulation of ſeverall bounds in the Preſbyteries of St. Andros and Couper.

June 18, 1650.—The whilk day mett, according to the appointment of the Preſbyteries of St. Andros and Couper, in obedience to the appointment of the Synod, the brethren vnder writen, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. James M'Gill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, and Mr. George Thomeſon, and did perambulate the eaſter parts of the paroch of Serris, the paroch of Kembak, Darſie, and Logie, and the weſt part of the paroch of Leuchars, and did find as followes, viz. That Over and Nether Magus, in the paroch of Serris, extending the number of . . . comunicants, are diſtant from the kirk of Serris two myles and ane halfe, having ane ill water twyſe to croſſe, and but ane myle from the kirk of Kembak, of farre more commodious way, the number of the comunicants of Serris being . . . .

and the number of the comunicants of Kembak being but eight ſcore. As alſo, having viewed the weſt parts of the paroch of Leuchars, viz. Eaſter and Weſter Drone, Burntoun, Medowburn, Pitcullo, Kittetie, Arditt, Hayſtoun, Couplahills, Lucklay, do find that Eaſter Drone is diſtant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles of verie foule way, and that it is but a myle diſtant from the kirk of Dairſie: alſo Weſter Drone is diſtant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles and ane half of foule way, and within ane quarter of ane myle to the kirk of Dairſie, and that the number of comunicants in Drone Eaſter and Weſter are about thrieſcore: alſo, that Pitcullo, Meedowburn and Burntoun, having in them about thritie comunicants, are two myles of verie foule way from the kirk of Leuchars, and about a myle either to Dairſie or Logie of good way; the number of the communicants of Dairſie being threttine ſcore, and the number of communicants in Logie about thrie hundreth: alſo, that Arditt, Hayſtoun, Kittetie, Cuplahills, and Luckley, are two myles diſtant from the kirk of Leuchars, and within halfe a myle of the kirk of Logie; the number of communicants in theſe places being above fourſcore; the number of the communicants of the paroch of Leuchars being about eleven hundreth. The humble opinion of the perambulators is, that Over and Nether Magus be diſjoyned from the paroch of Serris, and annexed to the paroch of Kembak; and that Drone, Eaſter and Weſter, ſould be diſjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairſie; that Pitcullo, Meedowburn, and Burntoun be diſjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairſie or Logie, as the Comiſſion, after hearing of the heritours and reſpective parochiners, ſall find moſt convenient; that Kittetie, Arditt, Luckley, Cuplahills, Hayſtoun, ſould be diſjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and adjoyned to the paroch of Logie. In teſtimonie quherof thir preſents are ſubſcryved with our hands, day foirſaid, at Dron. *Sic sub.* Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. George Thomeſone, Mr. James Makgill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne.

June 26.—*Anſtruther.*—The Preſbyterie doe appoint the ſeverall brethren to intimate the excomunication of Johne Anſtruther.

Holland.—As alſo, the ſeverall brethren are appointed, by publicke intimation, to warne ther people of a vagabond ignorant fellowe, called Johne

Holland, quho profeſſes to give phyſicke, and hath deceived diverſe, that they beware of employing him, and that nane in theſe bounds ſall refett him.[1]

July 10.—*Graemſay and Couper.*—John Graemſay and Andro Couper confeſt that being taken by Johne Anſtruther, they did ſweare ane oath to him; quho, being verie ignorant, are referred to be dealt with by ther miniſters, and the Preſbyterie againe to conſidder them with others quho ſall be found in that caſe.

July 17.—*Moneyes delyvered for levying ane Regiment of Horſe to the preſent Service.*—The Preſbyterie conveened occaſionallie for delyvering ther ſeverall proportions toward the levying a regiment of horſe for the preſent ſervice, as followes; Mr. James Bruce 100 merks, Mr. Robert Bennett 100 lib., Mr. Colin Adams 100 merks, Mr. David Guthrie 100 merks, Mr. George Hamilton 100 lib., Mr. Henrie Rymer 100 lib., Mr. Robert Wilkie 100 merks, Mr. Robert Weyms 100 merks, Mr. James M'Gill 100 lib., Mr. Patrik Skowgall 100 lib., Mr. Walter Comrie 100 merks, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne 100 lib.

July 31.—*Report of diſcharge of Moneyes.*—Mr. Archibald Porteous produced Mr. James Hamilton his diſcharge of eighteen hundreth merks received by him for the levie of ane regiment of horſe to the preſent ſervice, given by the miniſters of this Preſbyterie to that effect. As alſo, the brethren following produced his diſcharge of the proportions following; Mr. Robert Blair 200 merks, Mr. David Forrett 200 merks, Mr. James Sharp 200 merks, Mr. Andro Honyman 100 merks, Mr. Johne Heart 100 merks.

Exhortation to Brethren.—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering the great danger to Religion, Covenant, King, and Kingdome at this tyme, by the invaſion of the Sectaries, exhorted the ſeverall brethren, not only to be earneſt in prayer to God themſelves, both in publicke and private, bot that in tounes the people be conveened everie day to publicke and ſolemne prayer, quhen miniſters are at home and in health; and that landward a day be ſett apart for publicke ſolemne prayer in the Congregation, beſyde ther ordinar

[1] Holland was an English mountebank living at Anstruther, whose "deceit being discovered, the people were prohibite to resort to him."

dayes; and that people be exhorted to private humiliations in families, and ſecreit alſo by themſelves.

Prayer againſt the Sectaries.—The brethren ſpent the reſt of this day, both befor and afternoone, in ſolemne prayer to God, for a bleſſing to the vndertakings of this Kirk and Kingdome againſt the unwarrantable invaſion of the preſent enemie, quho hath perfidiouſlie forſaken the Covenant and oath of God.

Auguſt 7.—Black and Wyde.—Mr. Colin Adams to conferre with William Black and Andro Wyde, for informeing them of the ſinne in ſubſcryving that oath in Orknay called THE ERLE OF MORTONS OATH.[1]

Smith.—Compeired, Iſbell Smith in Kylrinnie paroch, quho confeſt ſhee vſed charmeing wordes, and being altogether ignorant, is diſcharged to vſe thoſe wordes, and appointed to make publicke acknowledgement of that ſinne befor the Congregation thrie dayes. As alſo, Margret Gregorie and Margret Kynneir, confeſt ſhee vſed theſe wordes for them: They are appointed to declare ther ſenſe of the ſinfulnes of countenanceing ſuch wickednes befor the Congregation alſo.

September 3.—Occaſionall Meeting of the 4 Preſbyteries.—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering how neceſſar it is, in this ſadde tyme, that the ſeverall Preſbyteries meitt together, both for themſelves and giving ther advyce to the meettings of the ſhyre, doe appoint a letter to be ſent to Couper, another to Mr. Alexander Moncreiff for Kirkaldie, for advertiſeing theſe Preſbyteries, and Mr. Alexander Moncreiff to advertiſe Dunfermline, to meitt at Couper vpon Friday nixt.

September 17.—Solemne Humiliation.—The quhilk day the Preſbyterie

[1] The islands of Orkney and Shetland were ceded by Charles I. to William, seventh Earl of Morton, in 1643. Although the oath here alluded to is termed THE EARL OF MORTON'S OATH, the Editor, after considerable inquiry, can discover no grounds for applying it to him, or to his son who succeeded him in 1649. But there is some reason to suspect that it refers to Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney, who was executed in 1615 for his rebellion in Orkney, and his lawless and oppressive acts against the poor inhabitants of those islands. The rebellion was raised at his instigation, while prisoner in Dunbarton Castle, by his bastard son Robert, who administered to his followers "grit Aithes maid upon their suordis to die and leve with him aganis all manner of persones, his Maiestie our sacred Souerane nocht being exceptit."—PITCAIRN'S CRIM. TRIALS, 1615.

received a Letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, appointing a Faſt to be keeped vpon the defeate of the armie, for the cauſes formerlie ſent; which is appointed to be intimate, and the cauſes red the nixt Lords day, together with a ſhort Declaration received from them this day; and the ſolemne humiliation to be keeped on the Lords day come eight dayes, for the foirſaid cauſes.

The brethren are requyred to be earneſt in exhorting the ſeverall paroches to ſend out ther levies of new or old forces to Stirling, for oppoſeing the enemie.

Condoleing and encourageing of Lumiſdeane.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Mr. Colin Adams, and Mr. George Hamilton, to viſite Sir James Lumiſdeane the morne, for condoleing his caſe and encourageing him to ſtedfaſtnes, being ane priſoner at this tyme.

October 23.—To try anent any acceſſorie to the Kings late eſcape, etc.—All the brethren were exhorted to try of any in theſe bounds quho have beene acceſſorie to the Kings Majeſtie his late eſcape, or to the late rebellion in the north, and report ther diligence theirin from tyme to tyme.

October 30.—Charitable collection for our priſoners in England.—The Preſbyterie having received a letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, ſhewing the ſadde condition of our priſoners in England through famine and nakednes, and that they, with advyce of the Committee of Eſtaites, have concluded a voluntar contribution through the ſeverall Congregations of this Kirk for ther releife; The Preſbyterie doe appoint the intimation heirof the nixt Lords day, to be collected the Sabboth following; in the meanetyme, to adviſe with the Provinciall Aſſemblie anent the ſecureing heirof, for the vſe foirſaid.

As alſo, they received another letter from the ſaids Comiſſioners deſireing, that not only the Comiſſioners heir bot other brethren wold attend the nixt meeting of the Comiſſion at Stirling, their being buſſines of great importance both to Kirk and State to be agitate then, which was ſeriouſlie recomended to brethren.

The Preſbyterie takeing to their further conſidderation the former letter of the Comiſſion, anent the Enormities of Miniſters, and the Remedies therof, doe as yet referre it to be conſiddered till Monday nixt.

Warning.—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie received a Warning from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, concerning the Malignants in the North now in armes, appointed to be red in the ſeverall Congregations heir.

November 4.—In anſwer to the letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, concerning the Enormities of Miniſters and the Remedies heirof, the Preſbyterie did begin with this overture:—

The Preſbyterie conſiddering with ſadde regrate, that notwithſtanding of a ſettled Miniſtrie of able and well gifted men in this place of the countrey, their is amongyſt the greater heir, not onlie litle of the power of godlines to be found, bot even great ignorance and profanitie; doe referre to the approaching dyat of the Provinciall Aſſemblie, to conſidder the cauſes and remedies heirof on Miniſters part, and that they wold appoint ſome of everie Preſbyterie to meitt for conſiddering heirof, and to report their diligence to the nixt Synod.

December 11.—*Lundie.*—The quhilk day, compeired the Laird of Lundie, quho being ſerioufflie examined, denyed expreſſlie any acceſſion either to the Kings late eſcape or to the riſeing in the North, or any foirknowledge of theſe things, and that he was only in Dundie at that tyme viſiteing his brother the Erle of Lauderdale, quho remaines their.

December 23.—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie received ane Act of the Comiſſion of the Generall Aſſemblie, dated Perth December 14, 1650, referring to them Johne Erle of Lauderdaile, that they may try the evidence of his repentance, for his acceſſion to the late vnlawfull Engadgement againſt the kingdome of England, and that thereafter they may receive him to publicke ſatiſfaction for that offence. And lykewiſe received a petition from himſelfe deſireing that he may be admitted to teſtifie his repentance for his acceſſion to that ſinfull way, and be received to the Comunion and renewing of the Covenant.

The Preſbyterie, having at length heard the ſaid Erle of Lauderdaile, compeiring befor them, expreſſe and declare his ſenſe of the ſinfulnes of that Engadgement in the nature and grounds therof, and having heard him humblie acknowledging his acceſſion to that courſe, and ſinfull forwardnes and activitie above many others in contryveing and carieing on the

ſame, withall teſtifieing his ſorrow theirfor, craving pardon of God for it, and promiſeing in his ſtrenth never againe to owne that or the lyke courſe; and being heard anent the Kings Majeſtie his late eſcape, quherof for the moſt part he cleared himſelfe, yet in ſomethings therin his carriage being repreſented to him to be ſinfull, he acknowledged the ſame;—doe, after mature deliberation, find that they cannot refuſe the ſaid Erle of Lauderdaill to teſtifie his repentance publicklie, and to receive the Communion and ſubſcryve the Covenant according to the order preſcryved by the Generall Aſſemblie; and therfor ordaines Mr. James Makgill, miniſter at Largo, to receive him to publicke ſatiſfaction in the paroch church of Largo, vpon the day of ſolemne humiliation, and to receive his ſubſcription to the Covenant, and his ſubſcription to the Declaration appointed by the Generall Aſſemblie 1649 to be ſubſcryved by ſuch as have been acceſſorie to that Engadgement.

Januar 15, 1651.—*Rigs admiſſion.*—The Preſbyterie mett at Ferrie Porton-craig, for admiſſion of Mr. Johne Rig.

Januar 29.—*Hamilton and Glencarne.*—The Preſbyterie receiving a reference from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, referring to them the Duke of Hamilton to be conferred with anent his acceſſion to the ſinfull and vnlawfull Engadgement againſt England, and another of the Erle of Glencarne to that ſame purpoſe, did appoint the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Colin Adams, Mr. David Forrett, and Mr. Walter Comrie, to conferre with their Lordſhips this day.

February 12.—A letter appointed to be writen to the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, bearing the report made by the brethren appointed to conferre with the Duke of Hammilton and the Erle of Glencarne; quho declared that they had received ſatiſfaction.

February 26.—*Anent inſolencies of Souldiers.*—The Preſbyterie being touched with a depe ſenſe of the great diſhonour done to God, and ſore oppreſſions of our congregations, cauſed by the vngodlie and inſolent behaviour of diverſe ſouldiers quartered within our bounds, have reſolved to complaine to the Kings Majeſtie and Comittee of Eſtates, and humblie to ſupplicate for redreſſe and remedie heirof: And therefore, doe deſire heritours or others in our bounds to come to their owne Seſſion the nixt

Lords day in the afternoone, and give in the names of ſuch as are guiltie of abhominable curſeing and ſwearing, profaneing the Lords day by abſenting themſelves from publicke worſhip, ſtaying in their quarters, or otherwayes are intemperate perſons, or have ſcandalouſlie oppreſt them by exacting, beſyde quhat is due to commanders, moneys unjuſtlie for ſouldiers that are not in regiments; or have beaten any for refuſeing them what they did vnjuſtlie deſire; that theſe may be repreſented to vs on Monday nixt. And appoints everie miniſter to intimate the ſame the nixt Lords day after forenoones ſermon.

March 3.—Supplication to the King and Comittee of Eſtates.—The Preſbyterie conveened for receiving the greivances of the ſeverall paroches by the inſolencies of ſouldiers, which being heard and conſidered, they concluded vpon a Petition to be ſent to the Kings Majeſtie and Comittee of Eſtates for remedie heirof, and appointed Mr. James Bruce to preſent the ſame to them on Tueſday nixt.

Apryle 23.—Conference delayed.—The Preſbyterie having formerlie appointed Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, and David Forrett to conferre with Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, anent his judgement of the publicke reſolutions for defence of Religion and the land againſt the enemie, vnderſtanding that he is heavilie ſeeke, doe referre the ſaid conference.

May 28.—Small.—The ſeverall brethren are advertiſed to take notice of Helen Small, a leude looſe woman come in their bounds, that ſhee be not permitted to reſide amongſt them.

June 3.—Anent a voluntar Contribution for the Armie.—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie having received a Letter, together with ane Act of Parliament, deſireing a voluntar loane or giveing of moneyes, for expeding the Armie to the feilds againſt the comon enemie, and for defence of the land againſt ther vnjuſt invaſion; and that Preſbyteries wold ſtirre vp the people to this neceſſar duetie, for ſeverall reaſons contained in ther ſaid Acts and letter,—The ſeverall brethren are appointed to vſe ther diligence with the people in ther ſeverall charges, to contribute willinglie and liberallie; and that the ſamyn be brought in tymeouſlie vpon Fryday come eight dayes, and delyvered to James Sword, according to the order of King and Parliament.

July 9.—*Intimation of excommunication of Strachen, etc.*—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie received a letter from the Comiſſioners of the Generall Aſſemblie, deſireing the intimation of ther excomunication of Johne Swinton ſometyme younger of that Ilk, Colonell Archibald Strachen, William Dundas brother to the Laird of Duddingſtone, and Lievtennant William Goveane, for ther complyance with the enemie quho hath vnjuſtlie invaded this land; and of Major Andro Abernethie, for rendring the Caſtle of Edinburgh treacherouſlie to them—recomended to the brethren to be done.

September 1.—*Letter to Moncke to be writen.*—The Preſbyterie mett occaſionallie for advyſing quhat is incumbent to be done by them in relation to certaine brethren latelie taken priſoners at Eliot, as Mr. Robert Dowglas, Mr. James Hamilton, Mr. Mungo Law, Mr. Johne Smith, Mr. James Sharp, Mr. George Pattullo, Mr. Johne Ratray, miniſters, and Mr. Andro Ker, Clerk to the Generall Aſſemblie, did appoint a letter to be writen to Lievetennant Generall Moncke for ther releife, and a letter to the brethren for comforting and encourageing them vnder ther ſuffering; and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to goe with both.[1]

October 20.—The brethren of the Preſbyterie being conveened, and laying to heart the preſent ſadde condition of the Kirk of God in this land, and the dangers and confuſions that threaten the eſtabliſhed Governement and diſcipline of this Kirk, which is to them verie precious; as they reſolve never to exceed the bounds of ther calling in medling with maters civile or of peace or warre, ſo they doe find themſelves bound in conſcience and by ther calling to Declare:—

[1] In Nicoll's Diary of Transactions in Scotland, August 1651, is the following notice of the occurrence here alluded to. "This Kingdome, both Kirk and Stait, being alwayis devydit both in judgement and opinion, and one pulpit speiking aganes another, the enymie thairupone tuik advantage, and gat mony opportuniteis of victorie. And heiring that thair wes a Committee of the Estaites than halding at Eliot [Alyth] in the north, besyde Killimure or thairabout, the Inglisches finding this Committee to be cairless, wanting a gaird, or ony considerable assistance for the tyme, thai raid up fra Dundie quyetlie in the nycht, upon Thursday the 28 of August, come upone the Committee quyetlie in the morning, tuik thame prissoneris, and robbit thame of all that thai haid, and schippit thame toward England, quhair thai wer committit." P. 56.

Firſt, That they doe vnanimouſlie aſſert and hold the late Generall Aſſemblie begunne at St. Andros, and continued at Dundie to have beene a lawfullie conſtitute and frie Aſſemblie of this Kirk, as other approven Generall Aſſemblies of this Kirk.

Secondlie, That their is no meeting eccleſiaſticall of quhatſoever name or nature in this land, that hath any warrand from God or man to claime any publicke eccleſiaſticke authoritie over the ſaid Aſſemblie or the Comiſſioners theirof; or to aſſume power in that capacitie or way to examine, or give any publicke judgement vpon the ſame, except another lawfull frie Aſſemblie of this Kirk; or yet to claime any power over the ſeverall church judicatories of the land.

Thridlie, That vntill another frie Generall Aſſemblie may be had through the mercie of God, quhatſoever eccleſiaſticall meeting, not having authoritie from the ſaid Aſſemblie, ſall aſſume to themſelves the power of a publicke Kirk judicatorie over the congregations of the land; or ſall take vpon them, as in that capacitie, to emitt Warnings, Letters, Remonſtrances, Cauſes of Faſts, etc.; or that ſall preſume to cenſure any perſon quhatſoever;—Is and ſall be looked vpon and holden by this Preſbyterie as ane vnlawfull meeting, ther authoritie as vſurped, and all ther acts of that kynd are and ſall be holdin as deids of private men acting without a calling, and noways binding this Preſbyterie, bot voyde and null befor God and man.

Fourthlie, That they will never countenance nor concurre with any ſuch vſurped authoritie tending to the ſubverſion of the eſtabliſhed governement of the kirk; althogh they doe heartilie approve conferences of gracious brethren quho follow after peace, and intend that way the repaireing of our woefull breaches.

Mr Patrick Scowgall appointed to correſpond with Couper, Mr. James Makgill with Dunfermline, and Mr. Henrie Rymer with Kirkaldie, and to ſhew them ther foirſaid act, and the former appointment of ane Faſt.

Marche 31, 1652.—*Letter, Sharp.*—A letter appointed to be writen in name of the Preſbyterie to Mr. James Sharp, priſoner at Lundon; Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to draw it vp.

October 13.—Mr. Alexander Edward admitted miniſter at Dininnow.

Januar 12, 1653.—*Newburne.*—The quhilk day, Mr. George Hamilton made report that, according to the order of the Preſbyterie, he preached and keeped Seſſion at Newburne the laſt Lords day; quher the Seſſion did vnanimouſlie nominate Mr. Robert Honyman, regent, to be their miniſter, and that the whole congregation gave their aſſent to the election. And the Seſſion deſired that he may be entred to his tryalls by the Preſbyterie, in relation to that charge. The ſaid Mr. Robert being called and heard, heirin ſubmitted himſelfe to the Preſbyterie; quho appointed him to adde to the exerciſe the nixt day, and to handle the contraverſie *De merito mortis Chriſti*, as his adres will permitt.

Kembak.—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne declared, that the people of Kembak are deſireous to heare moe young men befor they proceid to election. Mr. James Buglois appointed to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

Januar 26.—Mr. James Buglois, not having preached at Kembak the laſt Lords day, is deſired to preach ther the nixt Lords day, which he vndertooke. And Mr. John Rig appointed to preach there the Sabbath following, and ſie if the heads of families there will agree, and proceid to election of one of theſe young men they have heard.

Februar 9.—Mr. Johne Rig made report, that the heads of families in Kembak paroch moſt of them declared they were readie for election, only David Couper deſired to heare moe yong men, and Kembak yonger proteſted againſt all. The Preſbyterie appointed Mr. Laurence Charters to be writen to, and deſired to preach there on Sabbath come eight dayes.

Kennedy.—The Preſbyterie doe appoint the ſeverall brethren to bring in the fourtie ſhillings appointed by the Provinciall Aſſemblie for intertaineing Peter Kennedy, a blind boy, at the Colledge this yeir.

Februar 23.—The Preſbyterie, being informed that Mr. Laurence Charters hath not preached at Kemback, nor is not to be expected at this tyme, doe deſire Mr. Thomas Lentron to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

March 9.—*Colvill.*—The Preſbyterie received a paper from Mr. Samuell Colvill, the anſuer quherof is delayed till he bring a teſtimoniall from the place of his reſidence before he came heer, as he was formerlie appointed.

March 23.—Maſter Alexander Edward made report, that he preached at Kembak the laſt Lords day, and betweene ſermons conveened the here-

tours, elders, and heads of families, for election of a minister, according to the ordinance of the Provinciall Assemblie; quho, by pluralitie of voyces, out of these thrie they heard last, to witt, Mr. James Buglois, Mr. Johne Bairdie, and Mr. Patrik Peacocke, did choise Mr. Johne Bairdie[1] to be ther minister, desireing that he may be entred to his tryalls for that effect. The Presbyterie doe vnanimouslie approve the election; bot in regard of ane Act of the Generall Assemblie, vnto which Kembak alledges the election not to be agreeable, the Presbyterie doe referre the same to the Provinciall Assemblie.

Apryle 27.—[Mr. Robert Honyman admitted to Newburne.]

May 18.—*Rutherfurds Paper.*—The paper given in to the Presbyterie, November 5, 1651, by Mr. Samuel Rutherfurd, cannot be found, that the Presbyterie may give ane ansuer therto, according to ther promise.

July 6.—*Wilson, Session Clerk, deposed.*—The Presbyterie having found Mr. Thomas Wilson, schoolemaster of Largo, and clerk to the Session ther, by his owne confession to be guiltie of curseing, by profane nameing of the devill twyse vpon the Lords day, quhen the Communion wes celebrate, of bachleing faith in the face of the Session, and slighting his ministers admonition for the same; and lykewayes, having heard the minister and most part of the elders declare, that he is ane ordinarie taunter and tipler, judges him vnfit for the charge quherin he is: And therfor, suspending him presentlie from his charge in the Session, they appoint him also to remove from the charge of the schoole betuixt this and Mertimes, and in the meanetyme to make publicke satisfaction befor the pulpit for his scandall.

August 17.—*Colvill.*—The Presbyterie, being desired by the Masters of the Old Colledge to testifie quhat is knowen to them concerning the behaviour of Mr. Samuell Colvill dureing his abode within the bounds of this Presbyterie, doe returne this ansuer:—That althogh it belongeth properlie to the ministrie and eldership of St. Andrewes (quher he hath lived ane great part of some yeirs past) to give particular testimonie of his behaviour, yet doe find it incumbent to them to declare, that they have oftymes bein

[1] Mr. Bairdie was, however, never inducted. Owing to disputes among the parishioners regarding the election of a minister, the church appears to have remained vacant from 1650 till July 1656, when Mr. John Wardlaw was admitted.

much offended with his levitie, vnſettlednes of ſpirit, and his diſſorderlie cariage toward his reverend Brother, preſenting to vs raileing lybells againſt him,[1] for which he hath bein diverſe tymes gravelie rebuiked. And althogh he hath remaned ſo long a tyme in ther bounds, yet they have never to this day heard any good report of him, but very much anent his diſſolute life and converſation.

Sept. 21.—*Diſcharge for Tinmouth priſoners.*—The quhilk day, Thomas Finlay preſented a diſcharge ſubſcryved by Lievtennant Dugud of 229 lib. 6 s. 8 d., received by him from the ſaid Thomas for the vſe of his fellow priſoners at Tinmouth Caſtle. The Preſbyterie appoints the reſt of that contribution to be broght in with all diligence, and delyvered to the ſaid Thomas Finlay.

Nov. 9.—*Kembak.*—The Preſbyterie mett at Kembak for viſitation of that kirk. The whole heads of families being called vpon and broght in, and being enquyred if they were not wearied of lying deſtitute of a miniſterie, and if they were not deſireous to be provyded with ane able and faithfull miniſter,—they profeſſed thair earneſt deſire that the Preſbyterie wold endevore ther ſpeedie ſettling. Only Kembak laboured to perſuade the people that the Preſbyterie were come ther to prey vpon ther ſimplicitie. Theſe preſent referred the conſidderation of the buſines to the nixt day.

December 21.—*Dirigies.*—The brethren, in ther ſeverall charges, are exhorted to take notice of Dirigies after burialls, for ſuppreſſing them.

March 15, 1654.—*Deaſe.*—The quhilke day, compeired befor the Preſbyterie John Deaſe in St. Andrews, quho being rebuiked for ſtubbornes and ignorance in confeſſing a fault of miſcalling a woman, and not acknowledging ſinfulnes therin, is remitted againe to the Seſſion ther.

Apryle 3.—The Preſbyterie conſiddering the lamentable ignorance of God, as amongſt many others, ſo particularlie amongſt theſe quho are hirds, doe referre that buſines to the Provinciall Aſſemblie, that they may conſidder of overtures for remeid heirof.

Auguſt 30.—*Anent hirds keeping publicke worſhip.*—The Preſbyterie conſiddering that hirds doe ordinarlie abſent themſelves from publicke ordi-

[1] Samuel Colvill, author of a Mock Poem, or the Whig's Supplication, was the younger brother of Dr. Alexander Colvill, a learned divine, who had been Professor of Divinity in the University of Sedan, and at this time filled the same chair in St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

nances of Gods worſhip, vpon the Lords day, the whole ſummer and harveſt tyme, do referre to the Provinciall Aſſemblie how this renewed ſinne may be remeided.

Oct. 4.—*Anent decayed bridges.*—The Preſbyterie taking to their ſerious conſideration the great decay of bridges in theſe bounds, particularlie the Bowbridge of St. Andrewes, the Innerbridge of Leuchars, and the bridge at Dairſie, did nominate ther brethren, Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, Andro Honyman, Walter Comrie, Patrik Scougall, and James Sharp, to conſidder of overtures for reparation of theſe and the lyke, to be preſented to the Preſbyterie the nixt day. And ane correſpondent to be ſent to the Preſbyterie of Couper, anent the bridge of Dairſie.

October 25.—*Decayed bridges referred to the Synod.*—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering the great decay of bridges in theſe bounds, doe referre to the Synod to conſidder how they may be repaired.

February 7, 1655.—*Cairnes permitted to marie.*—The quhilk day, John Cairnes in Camrone paroch, preſented a petition to the Preſbyterie, quherin he profeſſed to be convinced of the ſinfulnes of his former looſe walking and converſation, and promiſed a more ſober way of converſation afterwards; and ſupplicateing, that in regard he being a widow, and having diverſe ſmall and young children, he may be permitted to marie; quhilk was granted.[1]

March 21.—*Act for having the Byble, Acts of Generall and Provinciall Aſſemblies, and of the Preſbyterie at the Preſbyterie.*—The Preſbyterie conſiddering that for more clearnes in doubtfull caſes, it is expedient they have at all tymes the Byble, the Acts of Generall and Provinciall Aſſemblies, and of the Preſbyterie, to advyſe with, doe appoint that at all tymes theſe be brought to the Table quhen they ſitt downe, and remaine ther till they cloſe ther meeting.

May 30.—*Edinburgh Collection.*—The Preſbyterie doe referre to the ſeverall Kirk Seſſions, the maner of collecting for releife of theſe quho ſuffered by the late burnings at Edinburgh, intreating it may be gone about with convenient diligence.

[1] John had been convicted of "fornication, blasphemie, ryotousnes, drunkennes, and abusing his neighbours," and had been ordered to do pennance, and debarred the communion.

Junij 27.—Erlſhall younger and Ladie Arnott ther proclamation ſtopped for 15 *dayes.*—The Preſbyterie having received ane appellation by Mr. James Reid of Pitlethie, from the Kirk Seſſion of Leuchars, anent ther not ſtoppeing proclamation of bannes matrimoniall betuixt Andro Bruce, feear of Erlſhall, and his daughter the Ladie Arnott, the Preſbyterie doe aggree, that the proclamation of the ſaid bannes matrimoniall be ſtopped for fyftein dayes; partlie becauſe ther was too great raſhnes in the parties in that buſines; and ſecondlie, that parents on both parts may be dealt with in a freindlie way for bringing them to a good vnderſtanding amongſt themſelves therin. Mr. Robert Blair and Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, nominate to deale with Pitlethie, and Mr. James Bruce and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, with the Laird of Erlſhall elder.

Thomſon intended beſtialitie.—Compeired John Thomſon, ſometyme parochiner of Kembak, now reſident in the paroch of Largo, quho declared, that be reaſon of trouble in his mynd, he reveiled to Mr. Robert Bennett a purpoſe of committing beſtialitie with a meare, bot did not goe about committing that vnnaturall ſinne. The Preſbyterie referred him to be inſtructed by the miniſter of Largo.

July 26.—Mr. Robert Macward, ſtudent in divinitie, deſireing to enter to his tryalls, recomended for that effect by the joynt concurrence of the Maſters of the New Colledge, gatt aſſigned for the firſt part quhairof, Rom. 5. v. 1.

Auguſt 1.—The private exerciſe in Rom. 5. v. 1, delyvered by Mr. Robert Makward, cenſured and approven. He is appointed for his further tryall to handle the contraverſie, *De praeſentia Chriſti in coena.*

October 10.—No exerciſe, be reaſon that Mr. Robert Makwards theſes were not delyvered at the Synod.

Mr. Robert Makward was deſired to give in his theſes preſentlie, and being deſired to attend Mrs. Colin Adams, David Forrett, Patrik Scougall, and Henrie Rymer, for conferring with him this day 15 dayes, after his delyverie of his commonheid, concerning his not joyneing in a faſt appointed by the Aſſemblie 1655, and his joyneing in a proteſtation in the meeting of the Vniverſitie againſt the chooſing of Commiſſioners to the Generall Aſſemblie, becauſe indicted by a preceeding Aſſemblie of a cor-

rupt conſtitution; he refuſed the conference, becauſe he thought to ſubmitt to a conference of that kynd a receding from that quhilk he formerlie owned, quhilk he mynded not to doe; and went away, not offering his theſes.[1]

October 10.—*Havilland, Engliſhman.*—A petition was preſented by ane Engliſh gentleman, Sir Anthonie Haviland, having a paſſe from the Juſtice of peace in Northumberland, and a Scottiſh woman being his wife; in which Petition he repreſented his ſadde condition, and deſired ſome preſent help. In anſuer to which, the Preſbyterie appoints everie brother to bring in ſome releife for him this day moneth at furtheſt.

Nov. 14.—*Petition for priſoners at Halyrudehouſe.*—A petition was preſented by Charles Areſkine, from ſeverall priſoners in the Abbey of Halyrudhouſe, being in verie great diſtres, earneſtlie intreating preſent releife; which petition was accepted, and the Preſbyterie recommended that the brethren vſe diligence with the ſeverall Seſſions for the obtaineing of ſomething for ther help, and to advyſe which ſall be the fitteſt courſe to be taken for that effect, and ane anſuer to be given this day moneth.

November 28.—*Anent May guiltie of attempt of Beſtialitie.*—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to intimate to his people from pulpit, the Preſbyteries diligence in enquyreing after John May, guiltie of the attempt of beſtialitie, and ther purpoſe of making ſearch in other parts of the kingdome, withall deſireing tham againe if they know quher he is, to declare it to the Preſbyterie.

Januar 23, 1656.—Mr. James Sharp, having repreſented to the Preſbyterie his deepe ſenſe of the weightie charge of the miniſtrie of Craill, and withall how impoſſible he found it to perſuade the parochiners there to grant any conſtant and ſettled manteinance for ane actuall miniſter to be a fellow labourer with him in that worke; as alſo, how willing he found them, in reſpect to his bodilie weaknes, and dureing his owne abode

[1] Mr. Robert was, however, licensed by some other Presbytery, and appointed one of the Ministers of Glasgow. After the Restoration of Charles II. having preached against the "glaring defections of the times," he was arrested, tried "for sedition and treasonable preaching," and obliged to leave Scotland. He went to Holland, and was chosen second minister of the Scottish Church in Rotterdam, where he died in 1681, (Steven's History, pp. 28 and 336, Edin. 1833, 8vo.) He was the author of the *Poor Man's Cup of Cold Water,* and many other tracts printed in Holland during the times of the persecution of the Covenanters.

amongſt them, to contribute ſomequhat yeirlie for the manteinance of any approven expectant quhom they pleaſed to chooſe to be ane helper to him; did crave the Preſbyteries advyce, whither he might not accept of quhat was granted by them: which the Preſbyterie, conſiddering ſeverall practiſes in the lyke caſe, thought he might ſaiflie doe vntill more might be obtained.

Feb. 2.--*Wardlaws Declaration.*--Mr. John Wardlaw was preſent this day, and being interrogated, whither or noe he diſſowned the Comiſſion anno 1650 as expyred, becauſe of the two Generall Aſſemblies which followed immediatelie? Anſuered affirmativelie. And the Preſbyterie being ſatiſſied therwith, appoints Mrs. Robert Blair, Samuell Rutherfuird, Patrik Scougall, to deale with Brathins for furthering the plantation of Kembak.

May 21.—*Vilants admiſſion.*—The Preſbyterie conveened at Ferrie-porton-craig for the admiſſion of Mr. William Vilant to the charge of the miniſtrie at that place.

July 2.—The Preſbyterie conveened at Kembak for the admiſſion of Mr. John Wardlaw to the charge of the miniſtrie ther.

July 30.—Mr. William Row, correſpondent from Couper Preſbyterie, deſired advyce anent ſome Anabaptiſts in the paroch of Couper, quho wer laitlie rebaptized. The Preſbyterie thinks fitt that the mater of the Anabaptiſts be repreſented to the meeting at Edinburgh.

September 24.—*Symſone in Camrone.*—Compeired, Andro Symſone in the paroch of Camrone, quho being challenged of drunkennes, denyed the ſame, although it was proven; and appeared to be ſtupid and ſenſles of ſinne and the cenſure inflicted on him; being threatened with excommunication, it appeared not that he was moved therwith. The Preſbyterie reſolved, ſeing there were ſeveralls in ſuch a condition, to referre the mater in theſe to the Synod, that they might know quhat courſe ſould be takin with theſe, quho, after ſuſpenſion from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, were not weighted with the cenſure, and fell in new ſcandalls.

October 21.—*Act for better keeping the Preſbyterie.*—The Preſbyterie, being much weighted that many brethren were oft abſent from the Preſbyterie, others come late, and others having come doe withdraw themſelves from the Preſbyterie, did appoint that theſe quho wer abſent, having no lawfull excuſe, ſould be ſharplie cenſured according to ther fault. And

befides, it was by confent agreed on, that the abfents fhould pay eight fhillings; thefe quho come late 4 ß.; thefe that withdraw 2 ß. And if they fould offer to excufe themfelves, that befor ther excufe were heard, the money fould be laid downe, and if the excufe were not found relevant, given to Mr. Henrie Rymer, collector of this money.

November 12.—*Mure, Pyper.*—The quhilk day, compeired John Mure, quho was rebuiked for being the author of much difforder by his pypeing; and warned, that if he fall be found afterward making difforder in any congregation within thefe bounds, recourfe will be had to the civile magiftrate for taking order with him.

Sanders and Bell recomended.—Thomas Sanders and William Bell, poore fcholers in St. Andrewes, recomended to the feverall Seffions, and it is defired that everie Seffion give them 20 ß. or two merks.

Private Cenfure.—The whole brethren prefent approven as faithfull and diligent in their calling, and of a holie and Chriftian converfation.

December 3.—*Supplie for Grecian Minifters.*—The quhilk day, the Prefbyterie [received] a Supplication from Anaftafius Comnenus, a minifter of the Grecian Church, together with fome teftificates anent himfelfe and thefe for quhom he did fupplicate, defireing fome charitable fupplie for his owne and other fyftein minifters, captives at Argiers, ther releife.

December 17.—*Pittenweems Supplication referred.*—The quhilk day, the Prefbyterie received a petition from the burgh of Pittenweeme, defireing help by a contribution, for the repaireing of ther harbor; defireing alfo a recomendation of ther fadde condition to other adiacent cities, burghes, Prefbyteries and Synods. The Prefbyterie referred the fupplication to the Synod.

Jannuar 28, 1657.— *Wood and Scougall to meit at Edinburgh.*—The Prefbyterie, being advertifed that fundrie minifters are to meit at Edinburgh the nixt moneth, about fomethings relateing to the governement of Chrifts Kirk in this land, did nominate Mr. James Wood and Mr. Patrik Scougall for affiftance and giving advyce therin.

February 11.—[Mr. Robert Honyman, minifter of Newburne, ordained to be tranfported to Dyfert.]

Feb. 25.—*Letter from Cathnes.*—The quhilk day, the Prefbyterie received

a letter from the Preſbyterie of Cathnes, by Mr. James Adams one of ther number, declareing the deſolate condition of that corner of the countrey, by the paucitie of labourers in the worke of God ther, deſireing the recomendation of ſome to help to ſupplie vacand congregations ther. The Preſbyterie recomended this to the brethren nominate for the former buſines with the miniſters of St. Andrewes, to conſidder heirof and report.

Apryle 22.—*St. Andrewes.*—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie did receive a recomendation granted by the Synod in favours of the toune of St. Andrewes, for a collection for advanceing ther harbour and ſtone bridge that are both ruined. The Preſbyterie, with ther owne conſent, delayed it for a tyme.

September 2.—*Conference appointed with Balcormo younger.*—The Preſbyterie being informed that John Arnot younger of Balcormo, continues in the groſſe ſinne of intemperance, notwithſtanding the Lords hand is heavie vpon him in a greivous diſeaſe, and has laitlie confeſſed adulterie, doe nominate Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett to conferre with him, and hold foorth to him the danger of his ſinfull way.

September 16.—*Dr. Colvill requeiſted to write.*—The Preſbyterie, having ſein and conſiddered a litle booke latelie put to the preſſe by Doctor Colvill, did earneſtlie requeiſt him to goe about more of that kynd.[1]

Depoſed Miniſters referred to the Provinciall.—The Preſbyterie, being certainlie informed of the great diſtreſſe and povertie quherin theſe Miniſters quho were depoſed in Angus are, doe referre the conſidderation of ther caſe to the approaching Synod.

March 24, 1658.—*Recomendation to Miniſters, and reference to the Synod anent quartering of Souldieris.*—The Preſbyterie doe ſeriouſlie recomend it to miniſters in burghes, to deale als effectuallie as they can, with magiſtrates in ther ſeverall reſpective burghes, that no ſouldiers be quartered in ſuch houſes quher women only remaine; and doe heirby referre to the nixt Synod how this may be helped throughout the bounds.

July 7.—The Preſbyterie being informed that of late ther hath bein a

[1] This "litle book" was probably that entitled "De Loco Parallelo, obscuro et difficili Jacobi cap. 4. vers. 5 and 6, Prælectiones Quinque." Edinburgi, 1656, 4to.

buriall in the kirk [of Pittenweeme], contrair to Acts of the Generall Aſſemblie, did diſapprove the ſame. The miniſter and elders declared that ane act is paſt in ther Seſſion that the lyke ſall not be heirafter.

September 1.—*Faſt appointed.*—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering the verie great vnſeaſonablenes of the weather by a great raine in tyme of harveſt, threatening to deſtroy the fruites of the ground, did aggree that ther ſall be ſolemne humiliation and calling vpon God by prayer and faſting within ther bounds the nixt Lords day; and to continue the Lords day following, and therafter as neid ſall requyre.

Mure, Pyper.—The quhilk day, diverſe brethren complained that John Mure, pyper, is occaſion of much diſforder in ther congregations, by his pypeing at brythells, and vnſeaſonable drinkings. The ſaid John compeiring, the Preſbyterie diſcharged him to play at any brythells, or at drunken lawings, with certification if he be found to contraveene, he will be proceided againſt with the higheſt cenſures of the Kirk.

December 1.—*Fairfull in St. Andrewes.*—Compeared William Fairfull, quho confeſt, the ſpeaches vttered by him anent the League and Covenant, and of the Miniſters of Chriſt, were verie raſh and ſinfull, and did ſolemnlie vndertake not to be found in the lyke heirafter. The Preſbyterie doe appoint, that he be ſpoken to anent theſe ſpeaches publicklie befor the congregation of St. Andrewes, and report to be made therof, and therafter are to conſidder quhat further to doe theranent.

Februar 16, 1659.—*Hamiltons admiſſion.*—The Preſbyterie conveened at Newburne for admiſſion of Mr. George Hamilton younger, to the charge of the miniſterie ther.

Februar 23.—*Anent Poland Proteſtants baniſhed.*—The Preſbyterie having heard of the diſtreſſed condition of many baniſhed Proteſtants in Poland and the confines of Bohemia, for whoſe releiſe a voluntar contribution is neceſſar, doe referre that buſines to the nixt day.

March 2.—*Principall of the New Colledge anent Rait.*—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Principall of the New Colledge, did lay befor the Preſbyterie his verie deepe ſenſe of the vacancie of the thrid Maſters charge in that colledge, and his verie earneſt deſire to have it planted with a godlie and able man; and that he hath bein thinking, how to have Mr.

William Raitt, minifter of Brechin, fettled in that charge, earneftlie intreating the Prefbyteries advyce and concurrence therin. The Prefbyterie nominate Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, James Bruce, Andro Honyman, Alexander Wedderburne, with the Moderator, to conferre with the Mafters of the New Colledge theranent, and to report the nixt day.

March 30.—*Colvill nominates Sharp for the New Colledge.*—The quhilk day, Doctor Alexander Colvill, profeffor of divinitie in the New Colledge, having laid out to the Prefbyterie the great neid of having the thrid Mafters place ther planted, did defire the Prefbyteries concurrence for planting therof by Mr. James Sharp, minifter of Craill.

Apryle 7.—Whereas both the mafters of the New Colledge being verie fenfible of the great neid there is, that the vacand place of one of the Mafters of that Colledge be fpeedilie and well planted, earneftlie intreating the Prefbyteries concurrence and advyce therin. The Prefbyterie, being verie fenfible how neceffar it is that this be done, doe feriouflie and earneftlie recomend the mater to the Synod for advyce therin.

May 11.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird declared to the Prefbyterie, that he adheres to his nomination of Mr. William Raitt, for the vacand charge of the New Colledge.

May 12.—The Prefbyterie, confiddering quhat is referred to them in reference to planting of the vacand Mafters place in the New Colledge, it being a weightie bufines, and many brethren abfent, the Moderator appointed to write to all the abfent brethren, that a frequent meeting of the Prefbyterie may be at the kirk of Kembak Tuefday nixt, at eight a clocke in the morning, for confiddering heirof.

Junij 8.—The brethren defired to obferve how the fynes impofed by Juftices of peace vpon fornicators are employed, that the poore be not wronged of quhat is due to them by the law.

Auguft 31.—The Prefbyterie, confiddering the great fcandall committed by fuch quho having tokens allowed to them for receiving the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, doe not make vfe therof themfelves, bot give them to fuch as are not allowed by the minifter and feffion to that ordinance vpon good grounds, doe appoint both the parties, in fuch cafes, to be publicklie rebuiked.

Junij 6, 1660.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Principall of the New Colledge, intreated the Prefbyterie, and brethren ioyned with them for their advyce and concurrence, in planting the vacand charge in that Colledge by Mr. William Raitt; quho being removed, he did thereafter prefent a fupplication to the Prefbyterie and Commiffioners of the Synod, defireing ther concurrence toward the calling of Mr. William Raitt, or if that be not obtained, that there be nothing done by advyce or otherwayes, in reference to the fettling of the vacand place in the New Colledge, which may any wayes prejudge the full and frie confultation and determination of a hoped for Generall Affemblie. The Prefbyterie refolves to doe nothing that may prejudge the mater in a Generall Affemblie, or bind vp there owne hands from voteing frielie therin.

Junij 13.—*Advyce anent Sharp to the New Colledge.*—The Prefbyterie, confidering the minutes of the former day, touching the planting of the New Colledge, appointed the enfueing paper to be drawin vp, and approved of it as ther fenfe in that mater. Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Principall of the New Colledge, diffented from the paper, and defired a copie therof vnder the Clerks hand, which was confented.

"Although the Prefbyterie, and others ioyned to them by the Synod, defired the Mafters of the New Colledge to give in quhat overtures they thought fitt to facilitate the plantation of the New Colledge, and the fpeakers quhat they had to fpeak in that mater, the advyfing quherin was committed to them by the Synod, befor they fould proceid to give ther advyce theranent, and the faid Mafters were pleafed to adde nothing to quhat they had formerlie fpoken; yet efter they had withdrawn, and the Prefbyterie had begun to give ther judgement, Mr. Samuell Rutherfuird, Principall of the New Colledge, came in, and prefented a paper, defireing the Prefbyterie either to concurre with him in calling Mr. William Raitt, or els that they fould doe nothing which might prejudge the libertie of the Generall Affemblie, quho had power to call to that ftation. In reference to which, the Prefbyterie declares, that they think fitt to give their advyce in this mater, and that in order to obedience of the Synod calling them to it, and that ther giveing ther judgment and advyce doeth neither as to ther intention nor vpon the mater prejudge the libertie of the Affem-

blie that hath power to call; neither mynd they by this ther advyce, (if it ſall take no effect), to prejudge themſelves or ther Commiſſioners of any competent libertie of judgeing in this mater, according to ther calling in any Aſſemblie, quherof the Lord in his goodness ſall give them opportunitie.

"The Preſbyterie, having received ane Act of the laſt Provinciall Aſſemblie at Dunfermline, appointing them with ſome other brethren ioyned with them, to give ther help by ther advyce to the Maſters of the New College, for the ſpeedie plantation of the vacand profeſſion of Divinitie in that Colledge, by ſome perſon fitted and qualified for that place, and conſiddering that ther worthie brother Mr. James Sharp, miniſter at Craill, quho, for his pietie, learning, and prudence, is eminentlie fitted and qualified for that profeſſion in this Seminarie of the Church, and that he is a man able to be ſpeciallie vſefull to that whole Vniverſitie, having bein for many yeirs a member and profeſſor of philoſophie in a colledge ther; as alſo, conſiddering that he is vnder the juriſdiction of the Synod and Preſbyterie, and may be more eaſilie and ſpeedilie tranſplanted to that place than any other quho is not ſo, doe therfor give ther advyce to the Maſters of the New Colledge to invite and call him to that place and profeſſion, and doe promiſe to give ther concurrence therto to the uttermoſt of their power."

November 7.—*Derſy and Lathoker.*—Sir George Moreſone and Lathoker, referred by the Seſſion of St. Andrews to the Preſbyterie, for going to the ſingle combate, were called and compeired not, are to be ſummoned to the nixt day.

November 28.—*A letter from the Lord Chancelour and Earle of Rothes, for planting Mr. James Sharpe in the New College.*—This day, the Preſbyterie receaved a letter from the Lord Chancelour and the Earle of Rothes, in reference to the planting of the charge in the New Colledge, vacant by Mr. James Woods tranſportation from it, deſires it may be filled by Mr. James Sharpe, and the rather becauſe of an Act of the laſt Synode relating to that buſſines. The diligence heirin is referred to Dr. Colvill.

Januar 30, 1661.—The Preſbyterie, conſiddering that matters are now or may be in agitation, that concerne the intereſts of Chriſts Kirke in this

land, in the Parliament, doe appoint ther brethren Mr. David Forrett, Mr. Hary Raymor, to attend at Edinburgh and ſeek advyce, and do quhat may be for preſervation of the intereſts of Chriſts Kirke in this land; and this without prejudice of the former appointment.

Februar 13.—*Monnepennie captive among the Turks.*—This day Thomas Monnepennie, 24 years captive among the Turks, was recomended to the ſeverall Seſſions.

Apryle 17.—Wheras, the Preſbyterie, Apryle 1, 1661, condiſcended vpon two Papers, the one intituled *A Supplication to his Grace his Majeſties Commiſſioner*, the other, *A ſeaſonable Exhortation, etc.;* to be referred and humblie offered to the conſidderation of the Synode, etc.; as followeth in the Act of reference, and that the ſaid two papers being read once in the audience of the Synode, and the judgement of ſome members enquired thervpon, before the judgement and vote of the whole Synode could be had vpon them; the Synode was, by a noble man preſent at that tyme, commanded in his Majeſties name, vnder the paine of rebellion, preſently to riſe, and was forthwith broken vp. And the Preſbyterie, having now againe taken into ſerious conſideration the ſaidis two papers, approves both of them; and that as to the matter and manner as containing nothing but that which in ther judgement as juſt and neceſſarie to have been done by the Synode in this tyme, when ſundrie wieghtie matters of the reformed religion recieved, profeſſed, and practiſed in this Kingdome and Kirke are in apparent danger; and appoints the full tenour of the ſaids papers to be inſert and regiſtrated in the Preſbyterie book, ther to remaine *ad memoriam.*[1]

May 23.—It is appointed by the Preſbyterie that everie brother of the miniſtrie within ther bounds on the nixt Lords day, after the forenoone ſermon, ſignifie to ther reſpective congregations, that the Preſbyterie having hard that the Eſtates of Parliament, by an Act proclaimed at the market croſſes of ſome townes within theſe bounds, required that on Wednesday nixt, the 29 of this inſtant May, ther be ſolemne commemoration with thankſgiveing for his Majeſties happie reſtauration to his throne. The Preſbyterie, being verie ſenſible of the great mercie of God towards

[1] These papers have not, however, been inserted.

thefe lands in breaking the yoke of the Ufurpers tirrany and oppreffion off the neck of his people in thefe kingdoms, and reftoring to us our rightfull dread foveraigne, and his Majefties lawfull governement; and being very willing to evidence and teftifie upon every occafion ther loyalty and cordiall affection, which they, with the people of God in this kingdome, have always borne towards his Majefties perfon and government, and the perfons and governement of his royall predeceffours, hath appointed that every minifter of this Prefbyterie fhall, the nixt Lords day, warne ther people to be affembled folemnely the faid 29 day of May for hearing fermon, giving thanks to God for that his great mercy of reftoring of our King to his juft right, and for praying for bliffings to his perfon and governement, and that he may more and more be fitted to be a bliffed inftrument for preferving and premoveing the truth of Religion in thefe lands: And withall, that they do prudently informe ther feverall people, that the obfervation of fuch dayes, for commemoration of fuch a fingular mercie, doth not import any holynefs in the day, fuch as God himfelfe hath put vpon the Sabbath day, which none but God himfelfe can put vpon any day.

December 4.—[Mr. John Middletoune admitted minifter at Leuchars.]

December 18.—This day was received from the Sheriffe clearke a copy of the Secret Counfells act for praying for the Queen, Queen Mother, and the Duke of Yorke; which they willingly yeeld obedience unto.

October 15, 1662.—The Prefbyterie could not meete before this day becaufe of the lawes and proclamations made by the State, inhibiting the meeting therof as formerly conftitute.[1]

December 21.—The whilke day, the Prefbyterie mett at St. Leonards College kirke, and did admitt Mr. James Weems to the miniftrie ther.

Craill, Auguft 5, 1663.—[Mr. Alexander Edward tranfported from Dinninow, and admitted minifter at Craill.]

September 24.—[Mr. George Patullo tranfported from Newtyle in Angus, and admitted minifter at Kingfbarns.]

September 30.—[Mr. John Auchenlaike tranfported from Inchture in Angus, and admitted minifter at Newburn.]

[1] There had been no meeting since 15 January previous.

November 11.—[This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted minifter of Dininow.]

Aprile 20, 1664.—This day Mr. John Auchinlaike, minifter of Newburne, gave in a reference from ther Seffion to the Prefbyterie, containing two fcandals committed by Robert Fairfull, parifhoner ther; firft, in that he profained the facred name of God, and in his difcourfe in the alehoufe did make a mocke of the praifes given by the congregation to the bleffed Trinity, ufeing thefe words, "This to yow Brother, Glory to the Father, and the Sone, and to the Holy Ghoft;" and defired George Fleeming to write in his letter, "Glory to the Father and the Sone," in a moft contemptuous manner. 2dly, In that he called the publick reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the finging of Pfalmes before the minifter came to the pulpit, the Meffe, ufeing thefe wordes, "They are buffie within at the Meffe, and yon is the old Meffe got up again." Thefe fcandals being judged by the Seffion to be too confiderable for them to determine in, have referred them to the Prefbyterie to be tryed by them, and have appointed the faid Robert to attend ther meeting. The Prefbyterie, after ferious confideration of the faid reference, appointed him to be called in before them. He not compeiring, they ordaine George Nairne, officer to the Prefbyterie, to fummond him *pro 2do.* againft the nixt day.

May 4.—Robert Fairfull being called compeired, and being interrogated anent the accufations given in againft him. As to the firft article, confifting of two parts, firft, in profaning the facred name of God, and in his difcourfe in the alehoufe, mocking at the Doxologie, ufeing the wordes as formerly fet downe; 2dly, in defireing George Fleeming to write in his letter as before: The firft he fimplie denyed; the fecond he granted he fpoke, but for his vindication he faid, "Ther are many which begin ther letters with Laus Deo;"[1] and he thinking that none wold offend at quhat he faid, he defired his brother write fo in his letter, becaufe he faw him long in beginning of it. As for the fecond, his calling the publique reading of the Scriptures the Maffe, he faid, he wold neither deny it nor confeffe it.

[1] "Laus Deo! was the first entry by merchants and tradesmen of our forefathers' days, in beginning their new account books with the new year."—*Hone's Every Day Book.*

The Preſbyterie, finding him to prevaricate, appointed George Nairne to ſummond the witneſſes againſt the nixt day.

Maij 18.—Robert Fairfull being called compiered. He, as formerly, perſiſted in denyall. The witneſſes ſummond for to declaire quhat they knew in his buſſineſs compiered, to quhom the Preſbyterie ſignified, that they were hopefull to prevaile with Robert Fairfull another way, and therefore delayed the receiving of ther declarations this day. Robert Fairfull was appointed to attend the meeting of the bretheren at the Archbiſhops houſe.

Junij 1.—Robert Fairfull referred back by the Preſbyterie to the Seſſion of Newburne, and Mr. John Auchinlaike is to make report to the Preſbyterie quhat ſatiſfaction he maketh to them.

Junij 15.—Mr. John Auchinlaike, miniſter at Newburne, according to the Preſbyteries order, made report that Robert Fairfull had ſatiſfied ther Seſſion; quherupon the bretheren declared themſelves wel pleaſed, and are to proceed no further in that matter.

Julij 15.—This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted miniſter at St. Andrews.

Julij 26.—The whilke day, Mr. James Rattary was admitted miniſter at St. Mennans.[1]

September 7.—The Preſbyterie conveened at Kemboke for the admiſſion of Mr. Robert Glafford.

September 21.—The Preſbyterie conveened at Carnbee for the admiſſion of Mr. Andro Bruce to be miniſter ther.

December 15.—The Preſbyterie conveened at Dininnow in order to Mr. John Barclay's admiſſion to be miniſter ther.

December 28.—This day, a letter directed to the Moderator from my Lord Archbiſhop was read, intimating as followeth.

ABBY, December 28, 1664.

REVEREND BROTHER,

WHERAS we finde that Mrs. James M'Gill, Robert Weems, David Guthrie, Robert Bennett, Alexander Wedderburne do obstinately persist in ther way of separation from ther bretheren, and contempt of authoritie, and disobedience to the laws, to the great prejudice of the Gospell,

[1] He was deposed in January 1682 for not taking the Test oath.

and scandal of the orderly ministers therof; therfore we shall desire yow to make intimation to each of them, that if they do not appear at the nixt meeting of the bretheren of the Exercise, which is to be holden at St. Andrews the 11th day of Januarie nixt, and then declaire that they are resolved thence forth to concurre with ther bretheren in the exercise of the word and discipline, and accordinglie give ther assistance as the law doth require in all ecclesiasticall meetings for suppressing of sin and edification of the Church of Christ in godliness and unitie, they are to expect, that after all Christian means used for ther reclaiming, we will forbear no longer to cause execute the sentence of the diocesian Synode against them. We recommend yow and the bretheren to the spirit and grace of Jesus Christ, in whom I am

Your loving Brother,

ST. ANDREWS.

An copy of which, with a letter from the Moderator, was ſent to each of the aboue named bretheren by George Nairne.

Aprile 26, 1665.—This day was delivered to the Moderator the execution of the ſentence of the dioceſian Synode ſerved att the Synodes command againſt the diſſatiſſied bretheren Mrs. James M'Gill, Robert Bennet, Robert Weems, Alexander Wedderburne, David Guthrie, which was red. They being abſent as formerly, neither any report from them being made to the Preſbyterie, ther places are vacand by the Act of the Synode, and are ſo to be holden.

May 10.—In obedience to the Act of the Synode annent the additional ſupplies for the Univerſities, theſe bretheren gave an account of quhat was ther modified ſtipends.

Mr. William Moore, miniſter of St. Andrews, 1200 merks; payes 36 lib.

Mr. John Auchinlaik, of Newburne, 4 chalders victual with 400 merks; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Middletone, Leuchars, 7 chalders victuall and an halfe, with 40 lib.; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Barclay, of Dininnow, five chalders victual and 80 lib.; payes...

Mr. George Patulo, Kingſbarns, 8 chalders victual; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Andro Bruce, Carnbee, 7 chalders victual, 180 lib.; payes 28 lib.

May 24.—Theſe bretheren gave up the rentals of ther modified ſtipend:

Mr. James Rattary, St. Mennans, 6 chalders victual with 200 merks; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Alexander Edward, Crail, 10 chalders victual; payes 30 lib.

Kemboke ſtipend not being well known to the miniſter as yet, onely he thinks it to be four chalders victual with an 100 lib.

Junij. 14—Mr. Andrew Bruce junior admitted to the church of Kilrinny.

All the bretheren obſerved the thankſgiving on May 29, and the faſt on the 7th June. It was informed alſo, that the bretheren quho deny ther meeting with us, though they obſerved both, yet did not read the Proclamation.

Junij 28.—The bretheren are to conſult quhat courſe is to be taken for cauſeing the ſtudents in the New Colledge ſtudy carefully the Hebrew tounge.

Julij 9.—The bretheren reſolve, in order to make the ſtudents in the New Colledge ſtudy the Hebrew, that none of them ſhall be approven in ther tryalls quho cannot expound the firſt ten pſalmes *ad aperturam libri;* and that the Rector give them notice therof the nixt publicque leſſone.

Auguſt 30.—This day, the Preſbyterie mette at Forgane according to appointment, admitted Mr. John Alexander miniſter ther.

September 28.—This day, the Preſbyterie frequently mette for admiſſion of Mr. Alexander Younge to be Archdeacone of St. Andrewes.[1]

November 15.—*Acts of the Synode.*—The Lord Archbiſhop and Synode taking to ther conſideration that reference concerning Robert Small, and finding that the bretheren off Megill had done nothing in it, appoint that the bretheren off Dumfermline, and whoſoever elſe have any evidences off divination, or unlawfull means off healing off diſeaſes, or finding that which is loſed or ſtollen, uſed by that man, that they ſend them to the bretheren off Megill betuixt this and the nixt Synode; as alſo, that the people who ſeek to him in thes unlawfull wayes, be challenged and cenſured accordinglie be ther own miniſters.

Januar 30, 1666.—Mr. John Middeltoune having aſked the bretherens advise about guizers in his paroch, is referred to the nixt day.

Mr. Robert Glafford having told the brethren that his ſcoolmaſter flatlie refuſed to obey the Acts off the Synod anent reading and ſinging the

[1] He was minister at Cramond.

Doxologie, and procuring a licence from my Lord Archbiſhop, the Preſbyterie thought fitt he ſuld be diſcharged of his office.

Februar 14.—Anent guizers in Mr. Johne Middeltones paroch, he is adviſed to proceed againſt them as ſcandalous perſons; and iff they prove diſobedient, to charge them before the Preſbyterie.

March 14.—[Mr. William Ogilvey inducted miniſter at Newburne.]

Aprile 11.—Mr. Andro Bruce, miniſter off Carnbie, having dilated Margret Guthrie in the ſaid paroſch for the ſinne off vitchcraft, and having proceeded againſt hir in the Seſſion of Carnbie, did give in the proceſſe, which is referred to the afternoon.

Poſt meridiem.—That proceſſe which was given in in the fornoon by Mr. Andro Bruce, miniſter of Carnbie, againſt Margret Guthrie, ſcandalous for many yeares for vitchcraft, was read before the brethren, who fand in it a number of ſorceries and malefices made out againſt hir; and that notwithſtanding of thes things made out againſt hir, ſhe is obſtinate. The brethren, becauſe off the veightines and difficultie off the matter, and the near approach off the dioceſiane meeting, do referre the ſaid proceſſe to the Lord Archbiſhop and Synod.

May 2.—*Act for the Hebrew.*—For the ſtirring up of young men for the ſtudieing of the Hebrew mor accuratlie, it is appointed, that whoſoever ſhall not giv ſatiſfactione in the Hebrew, in exponing anie of the firſt 30 pſalmes *ad aperturam libri*, ſo much ſhall be ſignified in ther teſtimonies.

Guthrie ſuſpect of Witchcraft.—Margret Guthrie ſuſpect of witchcraft in the pariſh of Carnbie, who was referred to my Lord Archbiſhop and Synod, being put in firmance befor the Synod by my Lord Kellie, at the deſire of my Lord Archbiſhop, the reference was not medled with by the Synod, bot left to the Preſbyterie: Therfor the Moderator, Mr. Alexander Edward, Mr. Androw Bruce at Carnbie, and Mr. Alexander Leſlie, ar appointed to deal with hir at ther own conveniencie, for bringing hir to a confeſſione, till the judge competent ſhould diſpoſe of hir.

May 24.—[Mr. Robert White, tranſported from Inchture, admitted miniſter at Ferrie-parton-craig.]

June 13.—*Small.*—As concerning that reference relating to Robert

Small, the brethren appointed to conferre with him, Mr. Walter Bruce, Robert Honyman, Jon Auchenleck, and David Pattoun, reported, that by his own confeſſione they find him guiltie of drunkenes, of prevaricatione, and of pretending ſkill in divining wher ſtollen goodes ar to be found, although reallie he hath non, and of abuſing the name of God in his papers given out for finding theſe ſtollen goodes; and findes him ſenſible of his ſinne, and ſorrie for it, promiſing, through the Lords ſtrength, never to doe the lik againe. The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod appoint that he appeere befor ſom congregationes within the Preſbyterie of Megill, confeſs his ſin, and profeſs his repentance for it, and ingage himſelf to doe no mor ſo; and that this be intimat to all the congregationes within the Preſbyterie; which the ſaid Robert acquieſced to, and promiſed to doe whenever he ſhould be appointed by the Preſbyterie of Megill.

Inerkeithing.—The ſupplicatione of the magiſtrates and town counſell of the burgh of Inerkeithing, grounded upon the Act of the Lordes of Privie Counſell, for a voluntarie contributione throuhout all the pariſhes of the dioceſs, for repairing of the ancient and uſefull Herbore of the ſaid burgh, was read, granted; and all the miniſters within the dioceſs wer appointed to intimat the ſaid collectione, and gather the ſam att ther firſt conveniencie, and to deliver the ſam to ther reſpective Moderatores, that by them it may be tranſmitted to James Bennett, bailzie of the ſaid burgh, collector of the ſaid collectione.

Papiſtes and Quakers.—If ther be anie perſones inclining to Poperie or Quakeriſm, they ar to be dilated to the Lord Archbiſhop, that a courſe may be taken with them.

Uniformitie.—Moderatores ar to take notice of the uniformitie of miniſters in ther practiſe of cauſing the Creed to be recited at baptiſm, and of ſinging the Doxologie, and of making uſe of the Lords prayer in publick.

Sabbath prophaned.—Wher the Sabbath is profand by men ryding upon that day, miniſters ar to mak that knowen to the magiſtrates of that toun wher ſuch horſe is hyred.

September 19.—*Advice anent Witchcraft.*—Mr. John Alexander aſkes the advice of the brethren what he ſhall doe with one Iſobell Key, in the pariſh of Forgon, ſuſpect of witchcraft and malefices don by hir? The

brethren defires he may giv in all that can be ſaid againſt hir in writ, againſt the nixt day, and then they will be mor clear in giving him ther advice.

October 1, 1667.—*Quakers of Fetteresſo.*—The miniſter of Fetteresſo is appointed to go on with the cenſour of the Kirk againſt the quakers within his paroch, that he cauſe cit them befor the Preſbyterie and Seſcion, and if they be not reclaim'd from ther errours that he proceed againſt them with the higheſt cenſurs of the Kirk in dew maner.

November 20.—[Mr. Paul Methven admitted miniſter at Danunow.]

Aprile 1, 1668.—The Lord Archbiſhop declaired, that he had keept a viſitation at Dumbfermling; that he had, upon good ground, depoſed Mr. Robert Edmiſtoune, miniſter at Culroſs; and as for Mr. Mathew Fleeming, his collegue, the Archbiſhop delayed to proceed againſt him, ſeing ther wer ſome hopes of gaining him; and for that end Mrs. Walter Bruce, William Perſone, John Shaw, are appointed to tell him that he is noticed that he hes not joyned with hes brethren of the Preſbyterie.

Anſtruther Weſter, May 13.—The which day, the Preſbyterie conveened for the admiſſion of Mr. David Taylior to be miniſterie ther.

Gibb appointed to appear in Sackcloath at the Church door.—Mr. James Ratteray declaired, that he had been dealing with Marion Gibb, according as he was appointed, and that he found her ſtill diſſembling. The brethren appoint that Mr. James cauſe her appear at the church doore in ſackcloath on the Lords day, from the ringing of the ſecond bell till prayer before ſermon be ended, and that then ſhe go to the place of publicque repentance, if peradventure ſhe may be winne therby, and that ſhe remove before prayer after ſermon begin.[1]

Camerone, June 24.—The which day, the Preſbyterie conveened for the admiſſion of Mr. James Williamſone to the miniſterie ther.

June 30, 1669.—The which day, the Preſbyterie conveened for admiſſion of Mr. John Chriſtiſone to the miniſtrie att Kembock.

Aprill 21.—*Quakers.*—The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod being informed that in Merns and in the pariſh of Fetteresſo were keept ſeverall conventicles by Quakers, who interrupted ſome miniſters in the time of publicque

[1] She was accused of incest, which she afterwards confessed.

worſhip, and ſpoke reproachfully of miniſters; the miniſters ther wer adviſed to be diligent in watching over ther flocks, and guarding them againſt theſe errors, and wait till a courſe be taken by the magiſtrate with theſe diſorderly perſons.[1]

The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod taking to ther conſideration the ſupplication of the magiſtrates and towne councell of the brugh of Kirkcaldie for a collection to the building of the new harbour of the ſaid brugh, which worke was interrupted through the trobles of the time; they grant the ſaid ſupplication, providing the petitioners finde ſecurity that quhat money is delivered to them ſhall be beſtowed on the ſaid work; and appoint that all the miniſters within the dioceſs collect for the ſaid end as ſoon as conveniently they may.

It is appointed, that no miniſter be abſent from his charge two Sabbath dayes togither without leave from the Moderator, and that they give ſuch an excuſe of ther abſence as ſhall be approven; withall miniſters are to be carefull to provide for ther people quhen they are from home themſelfe. The Moderators are to enquire, if all the miniſters within ther bounds preach twiſe each Sabbath, and if they ordinarly keep home.

October 6.—The Archbiſhop and Synod think that the Parliament is to be ſpoken unto for ratefying of the old Act for planting of ſchooles in each pariſh.

The Archbiſhop and Synod having a ſupplication from the towne of Couper preſented before them, quherin they ſupplicate that a charitable contribution may be granted unto them throughout all the pariſh churches of the dioceſs, in regard, that upon the . . . . day of Aprile laſt, a fire broke out accidentally in the ſaid towne, about one after midnight, and diſtroyed about twentie conſiderable families, quite ruined ther whole houſes, and brought the ſaid perſones to great ſtraits; therfore, the ſaid petitioners, having obtained an Act of his Majeſteis Secreet Counſell, for a voluntarie contribution to the ſupply of the ſaid perſons, throughout all the townes and pariſhes of the ſhires of Ffyffe, the three Lothians, Mers, Perth, and Angus; The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod, conſidering the pre-

[1] "*October* 25, 1668. This day, Thomas Craigie and John Durrett were before the pulpitt for hearing two of the Quakers sermons att Urie, and were receaved."—*Fetteresso Kirk Sess. Records.*

miſſis, appoint that a charitable contribution be collected throughout all the pariſh churches within the dioceſs of St. Andrews, and that between this and Candlemais nixt, that collection be gone about and ended; provyding alway, that the magiſtrates of Couper appoint faithfull and honeſt men to receive the ſame from the ſeverall Moderators of the Preſbyterie, (quho are to receive the ſame from the miniſters,) and to ſee that the ſame be faithfully diſtribute to the perſons damnified by that fire, at the ſight of the magiſtrates and miniſters, as they will be anſwerable to the Lordes of his Majeſteis Secreit Counſell.[1]

May 11, 1670.—*Shallit ſupplied.*—This day, a ſupplication was preſented to the Preſbyterie by Paul Shallit, a converted Jew, wherein he deſired the charitie of the brethren, in regard he was in mean condition, and minded forthwith to go into Ingland if he had aney thing to bear his expenſe. The Preſbyterie granted him his deſire, and gave him ſome ſupply.

April 13.—The Act of Parliament in favours of the brugh of Dondie, for a voluntar contribution to them, for reparation of ther herbour and great loſs of ſhipps through the ſtorme in October 1668, [being read,] the Archbiſhop and Synod reſolve to take this to ther conſideration, and to appoint a tyme for that collection.

October 5.—The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod, being informed that ſome perſones go to the Border and marrie ther, conteming the order of the Church, judge that they ſhould be delated to the civill magiſtrate, that they may be fined according to law, and that they be put to a publicque declaration of ther repentance, and be ſuſpended from the ſacrament, for violating the order of the Church; and that miniſters be carefull to give in the names of ſuch perſons to the Synod att the nixt meeting, and quhat they have done in ther cenſure.

May 3, 1671.—The Act of Parliament of the date 23d December 1669, appointing a contribution for the Incorporation of the Scotts att London, being read, the Archbiſhop and Synod ordaines, that this contribution be

[1] A similar supplication, which was also granted by the Synod, was presented the same day from the town of Kilmarnock, bearing, "that quheras upon the 22 of May 1668, the whole towne was burnt unto ashes by a violent fire that accidentally broke out, and about 120 families were cast out of all habitation, and brought to poverty and beggery."

intimate and gathered by all the miniſters of the dioceſs, both in burgh and land, betueen this and the nixt Synod.

The ſupplication of the brugh of Dondee, Kilrynny, and St. Monance, for contributions to the repairing of ther harbours, are to be taken to conſideration in due time.

November 8.—The which day, the Preſbyterie conveened in order to the admiſſion of Mr. John Wood to the miniſtrie att Kilrinny.

Aprile 3, 1672.—[Mr. Andrew Auchinlaike admitted miniſter at Dininnow.]

December 4.—*Iſbel Lyndſay rayling on my Lord St. Andrews.*—Doctor Moor repreſented to the brethren, that Iſbell Lyndſay, ſpouſe to John Wilſone in St. Andrews, who was baniſhed the towne by the magiſtrats, for hir rayling againſt my Lord Archbiſhop in time of Gods publik worſhip, having returned ſome weeks agoe to the towne, and being connived at in hope of hir future good behaviour, yit notwithſtanding, had the laſt Lords day ſaue one, uttered ſome reviling ſpeeches againſt the ſaid Archbiſhop and his Lady at his entry to his ſermon, to the great ſcandal of the congregation; and therfor was immediatly incarcerate by the magiſtrats.

The Preſbiteries reſolution theranent.—The brethring, ſeriouſly conſidering the greatnes of the ſcandal, and the bad preparative and ill example therof, thoght fitt to adviſe with his Grace anent ther duty in relation therto, and reſolued, to goe immediatly to the Abby on that effect, and to meett tomorrow.

December 5.—*The Preſbiterie appoint ſume to confer with hir.*—The brethring being mett, and being left by the Archbiſhop to ther own prudence to act in that matter as they thoght convenient, ſo that God might be glorified, and the ſcandal remoued, and the perſon broght to a ſenſe of hir guiltines, ordined the Moderator, the miniſters of St. Andrews, St. Leonards, and Creil, to confer with hir in priſon, and to indeavour to bring hir to a ſenſe of hir ſin; and to report the nixt day of our meitting, which is to be on the 1ſt of January nixt, in reſpect that Chriſtmeſs is this day twenty dayes.

January 1, 1673.—*The Brethrens report anent Lyndſay.*—The brethring appointed to confer with Iſbel Lyndſay, reported that ſhe was obſtinate,

and that the magiſtrats had reſolved to inflict civil puniſhment on hir, and baniſhe hir the toune; wherfor, the brethring appointed Doctor Moor to labor to bring hir to conviction befor hir remouel; and if ſhe ſhuld ſtil continue obſtinate and malicious, to declare the haynouſnes of hir ſin befor the face of the congregation, and deſire them not to be ſcandalized by hir wicked example, and that ſhe was a perſon uncapable of diſcipline, and unworthy of chriſtian ſociety.

Kilconquer, 19 *November*.—[Mr William Hey admitted miniſter there.]

Kembok, 4 *June* 1674.—[Mr. George Landels admitted miniſter there.]

Forgan, 12 *Auguſt*.—[Mr. William Scot admitted miniſter there.[1]]

October 27.—*James Lodian, &c. ſumond pro* 3to.—Anent James Lodian and his wife Elizabeth Key, and Helen Heggie, not only ſcandalous for keeping of Conventicles, and ſoliciting of others to the like diſorderly practiſes, but alſo guilty of withdrawing themſelfs from Gods publick worſhip eury Sabboth, and contempt both of the Word and ſacrament of the Lords Supper, and of the publick miniſtery, both in doctrine and diſcipline, in that pariſh of Kingſbarns, and profanatione of the Lords day, now for a long time; the miniſter declared, that the ſaid James Lodian vas ſo far from acknowledging his ſinnes, or promiſeing to waitte upone Gods publick worſhip, and receauing the ſacrament as ane indiſpenſable deuty, that he wold not ſuffer the word of exhortatione, but added this to his former ſins in reviling the miniſter, and calling his doctrine rayling. Therfor, he had not only ſumoned his wife, and Helen Heggie, and James Lodian, pro 2° by his beddall, as was ordained, but further, they were appointed to be ſummond pro 3°.

July 21, 1675.—This day, Dr. Edward reported, that thair was on Geilles Robertſone, in the toune of Craill, ſuſpect of witchcraft, and impriſoned vpon that account; and therfore deſyred, that ſome of the brethren might be appointed to aſſiſt him in conferring with her. The bretheren appoynt the Moderator, Mrs. Wood, Dauid Falconer, Dauid Tailzeour, Johne Auchinlek.

Auguſt 18.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, the bretheren that wer appoynttit to conferre with her, report, that they could gaine no confeſſioun from

[1] He died in October 1677.

her. Dr. Edward is appoynttit frequentlie to conferr with her during the tyme ſcho ſould be keipt in priſone.

September 11.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that thair is no appearance of her confeſſioun. The bretheren having conſidered her former confeſſiouns, quhairof they wer informed by Dr. Edward and utheris, and alſo theſe quho wer appoynted to conferre with her, hauing heard her owne daughter, and a ſiſter of her ſonne in law quho was ſick, and imputed her ſicknes vpon pregnant preſumptiones to a malefice of hers; and that ſcho ſpok nothing that tended to the clearing of her ſelf: The bretheren, finding that theſe were ſufficient groundis for them, vnto quhom ſuch a dewtie belonged, to crave a commiſſioun for her tryall, apoynt Dr. Edward to deſyre that the magiſtrats of the toune wold ſeik a commiſſioun for her tryall.

September 15.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that in reſpect thair wer no actuall magiſtrats in Craill, thair was no courſe takin for obtaining a commiſſioun for her tryall. The bretheren thoght that this was a duetie incumbent vpon the honneſt men of the toune to ſeik a commiſſioun, as is the vſe and cuſtome in ſuch caices quher ther is no magiſtrats; and therfore deſyre Dr. Edward to putt her confeſſiounes *in mundo*, and delyver them to honneſt men, who might carry them over the water, for obtaining a commiſſioun for her tryall.

September 29.—Anent Geillis Robertſone, Dr. Edward reports, that he had obeyed the Preſbyteries ordour the laſt day *vt ſupra.*

December 27.—Anent Geilles Robertſone ſuſpect of witchcraft, Dr. Edward, miniſter at Craill, reports that ſcho is now dead.

November 16, 1676.—*Acts Synod.*—The Acts of the Synod being this day delyvered, the bretheren wer appointed to conſider who wer the moſt notorious ringleaders in withdrawing from the publick ordinances in ther oun pariſh, and in procuring diſorderly baptiſms or mariage, that ſome feu of them might be proceeded againſt to be a terror to the reſt; and to give in ther names againſt the nixt day, in obedience to the Act of the laſt Synod.

Pittenweem, July 19, 1677.—[Mr. Andrew Bruce tranſported to Pittenweem from Carnbee, on the death of Mr. Hamiltone.]

November 14.—[Mr. Edward Thomſone admitted miniſter at Anſtruther-Eaſter.]

Kingſbarns, January 3, 1678.—[Mr. Gilbert Symſone, miniſter at the Caſtle of Edinburgh, admitted to Kingſbarns.]

St. Fillance, January 16.—[Mr. Alexander Sharp, ſometime miniſter in Ireland, inducted to St. Fillans.]

Cameron, January 30.—[Mr. Andrew Flooker admitted miniſter there, in room of Mr. James Williamſone.]

Ely, May 8.—[Mr. Alexander Wilſon admitted miniſter there.]

Carnbee, September 16.—[Mr. James Gairns, miniſter at Balmirino, tranſported to Carnbee.]

St. Fillance, September 25.—[Mr. James Strahan, Regent in the Old College, inducted to the miniſterie of St. Fillans.]

St. Andrews, May 14, 1679.—The which day, the Preſbitry mett heer but without any exerciſe or additione, in regard of the diſorders and confuſions all wer in, becaus of that horrid Murther committed upon the perſone of my Lord Archbiſhop of St. Andrews.

Newburn, September 17.—[Mr. William Sym, miniſter of
in Galloway, recommended by my Lord [Biſchop of] Edinburgh, vicar generall to the Sea of St. Androws, tranſported and admitted to Newburn.]

St. Andrews, October 29.—*No Exerciſe.*—The which day, the Preſbitry mett in the Town Kirk, but without any publick exerciſe, in regard that Dr. Moor, who was appointed to have it, did yeſterday preach by appointment from my Lord St. Andrews at the tranſlation of the Archbiſhop of Glaſgou to the Archbiſhoprick of St. Andreus, and conſecration of the Biſhop of Argil. He is again appointed to have the exerciſe, and Doctor Falconer the additione.

September 1, 1680.—*Duncan, ſcolder.*—Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that in his parochin of Dinninou, ther is on Cathrin Duncan guilty of ſcolding and abuſing hir nighbours, who refuſes to give ſatiſfactione befor his congregation for the ſame. She is appointed to be ſummond againſt the nixt day.

September 15.—Anent Catharin Duncan *ut ſupra,* Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that nou ſhe hath given ſatiſfactione, by acknoledging hir crim befor the congregatione at Dininnou.

Carnbee, April 27, 1681.—The which day, the Preſbitry mett heer in order to the admiſſion of Mr. Alexander Lundie, late miniſter at Oruel.

November 16.—This day, the Archdeacon, Moderator of the Preſbitry, produced to the brethren a commiſſion he had receaved at Edinburgh, of the date November 8 inſtant, from the moſt reverend Father in God my Lord Archbiſhop of St. Andreus, his Grace impouring him to adminiſter the Oath and Teſt appointed by the current Parlament to the ſeverall brethren of this Preſbitry; which was publickly read in ther audience. He produced alſo the expreſs ſens wherin the clargie of this kingdome ar appointed and alloued, by his Royall Highnes and the Lords of his Majeſties moſt honorable Privie Counſell, to tak the ſaid Oath and Teſt. This act for explaining of the Teſt to be takin by the clargie, being publickly read in the hearing of the brethren, and maturly conſidered by them, they did all unanimouſly agree and conſent to give obedience to the law, in ſwearing and ſubſcribing the ſaid Oath and Teſt in the ſens above expreſte, and that on the 23 day of this inſtant; on which day they appointed to aſſemble themſels, at ther ordinary meeting place in St. Andrews, *in hunc effectum.*

January 4, 1682.—The Archdeacone produced a letter from my Lord Archbiſhop of St. Andrews, allowing him to receaue unto the communion of this church Mr. James Canneris,[1] who had apoſtatized to the popiſh religion ſome years agoe, and was now earneſtly deſyrous to make profeſſion of his repentance, and to be readmitted to the felloſhip of his mothers church; this order from my Lord Archbiſhop careing expreſly in it, that his reception ſhould be performed ſolemly, and with the advice of the brethren in this Preſbitry. Accordingly, the Archdeacone having propounded the matter to them, they unanimouſly agreed that he ſhould be receaved publikly in the church of St. Andrews before the congregation,

[1] In 1684 James Canaries published a volume, at Edinburgh, entitled, "A Discourse representing the sufficient Manifestation of the Will of God to his Church in all its several Periods and Dispensations." 12mo. pp. 296. It is dedicated to the Chancellor, Earl of Perth. The author alludes to his still lying "at the Pool of Preferment;" and says, "my circumstances are such as make me yet depend upon the World for my fortune in it." Next year, however, he printed "A Sermon, preacht at Selkirk, upon the 29 of May 1685," in which he styles himself "Minister of the Gospel there."

on the 25 of this inſtant, which is the nixt meeting of the Preſbitry, and that intimation be made therof to the people from the pulpit the Lords day immediatly preceeding; which was accordingly done.

St. Andrews, Januar 25.—This day, the brethren being frequently convined, Mr. James Canneris was receaved in this maner following:—

The whole brethren of the Preſbitry were ſet at a table before the pulpet, and the penitent in a chear behind them; then the Archdeacone went up to Readers daſk, and, after calling upon the name of God, he diſcourſd concerning the occaſion of that meiting, and gave the reaſons vherfor it was thought fitt that this buſeneſs ſhould be tranſacted publikly; and alſo repreſented to the people briefly the manifold advantages which the Proteſtant Religion hath of Popry, the Proteſtant faith being a religion more ancient, more pure, more peacable, and more reaſonable then that of Rome.

Then the Archdeacone cald up the penitent from his ſeat to ſtand by him, that he might be the better heard and ſeen of the people: Where the penitent diſcourſed at great lenght of the temptations he was under to make defection to Popry, and of the motives, convictions, and inducements that made him, after ſome time, nauſeat that religion, and erneſtly deſire that he might have occaſion to renunce it, and embrace and profeſſe again the orthodox religion of Proteſtants; both which he did publikly and at large at this time.

After which, the Archdeacone required him to goe down to his former place, and ther, upon his knees, to creave pardon of God for his apoſtaſie, and for the offence and ſcandle he hath given therby to this reformed church, and to bege earneſtly that he might be readmitted unto its communion and fellowſhip; which he accordingly did.

Then the Archdeacone calld all the Doctors and Priſbyters preſent by name, to give their opinion and judgment concerning what they had heard from him, and to declare their mind, whither they thought he might be receaved upon this profeſſion of repentance unto the boſome of this Church; unto which all of thame unanimouſly agreed. The Archdeacone alſo calld to the whole people then aſſembled, that if they had any thing to object againſt the penitents reception, they might preſently declare the ſame.

But none of thame ofred to make any oppofition; and therefore the Archdeacone proceeded, and, with the confent of his brethren, admitted him to the fellowfhip of this Church, and in teftimonie therof did take him by the hand, as alfo the reft of the brethren did.

Then the Archdeacone folemly obtefted and charged him in the prefence of God, angells, and men, that he fhould never declam [decline?] again unto the Popifh errours and fuperftitions, which he had now folemly renounced; and he made him publikly promife, with upleafted hand, that he fhould perfift all the days of his life in the trew reformed Proteftant Religion as it is at prefent eftablifhed by law in its doctrine, difcipline, and government in this Church and Kingdome, and that he fhould adorne the fame with a holy life and converfation. Then the Archdeacone clofed the action with prayer, and difmiffd the people with the bliffing.

Kemback, Februar 22.—The Prefbitry mett here for the admiffion of Mr. Alexander Edward to be minifter at this place.

March 22.—The Archdeacone produced to the brethren a recommendation from my Lord St. Andrews in favours of a Grecian gentleman called Franfefco Pollani, who hath two brothers and a fifter in miferable bondage at Tripoli, that they might, in order to their relief, gather a voluntary contribution in their feverall congregationes; which they undertook to doe.

St. Monance, May 24.—[Mr. Andrew Burnet admitted minifter there.]

Newburne, Auguft 16.—[Mr. Andrew Youngfone inducted minifter here.]

September 13.—The collection for the peer of Bruntifland, and the bridge of Dumbartowne, was again recommended to the brethren.

Carnbie, May 23, 1683.—[Mr. John Falconer admitted minifter there.]

Kilconquhar, Sept. 24, 1684.—[Mr. Alexander Hay admitted minifter.]

Caraill, October 22.—[Mr. Alexander Leflie, minifter at Cyres, tranflated to Craill.]

Newburn, September 16, 1685.—[Mr. James Hay admitted minifter.]

Anftruther Eafter, Auguft 5, 1686.—[Mr. William Moncrieff admitted minifter.]

St. Andrews, November 9.—[Mr. John Wood admitted minifter.]

ATT ST. ANDREWS, APRIL 18, 1693.

The Provinciall Synod of Fife met at Dumfermline, takeing unto their conſideration, that there are now a competent number of miniſters in each of the tuo Preſbiteries of St. Andrews and Cupar, who formerlie were united in one Preſbitrie, and that both the Preſbitries were deſireous to be diſjoyned again, and to act ſeparatlie by themſelves, did, by their act, bearing the date the fixt of April I^m vj^c and nintie three years, diſjoyn the ſaid Preſbitries. As alſo, by the ſaid act they appointed the firſt diet of the meeting of the bretheren in the Preſbitrie of St. Andreus to be at St. Andreus upon the eighteen day of this preſent moneth of April; as the ſaid act at more length beares. And they, being mett accordinglie, did make choiſe of Mr. Thomas Forreſter to be their Moderator for this ſeaſon, and of Mr. Hugh Kemp to be Clerk.

After prayer. Sederunt. Mr. Thomas Forreſter, Moderator, Mr. Alexander Pitcairn, Proveſt of the Old Colledg, Mr. William Tullidaff, Principall of St. Leonards Colledg, Mr. James Drummond, Mr. William Wardrop, Mr. John Arthur, Mr. Walter Wilſon, Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Hugh Kemp, Cls. Elders, the Laird of Grangmure, William Jack, bailie in St. Andreus.

May 2.—Mr. Wood depoſed.—This day, the execution of the laſt ſummonds given to Mr. William Wood, late incumbent at Deninnow, was preſented to the Preſbitrie; and they haveing cauſ'd call him three ſeverall times, at the moſt patent church door, he compeared not, nor anie in his name; upon which the Preſbitrie, for his contumacie, did depoſe him *ſimpliciter* from the exerciſe of his miniſtrie.

June 7.—The bretheren of the Preſbitrie of Cupar, for the moſt part, were all preſent here, to conſult with this Preſbitrie anent the takeing of the Oath of Alleadgance and ſubſcryving the Aſſurance to their Majeſties King William and Queen Mary, impoſed by authoritie upon all the miniſters within this kingdom. But they left the final determination of this affair to the more generall meeting of the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, which is ſhortlie to be kept at Kirkcaldie.

October 5.—[Mr. Robert Fairweather ordained minifter at Carnbee.]

Auguft 1, 1694.—*Reference to the Synod anent the goeiny of Salt panns.*—Mr. Patrick Coupar informing the Prefbitrie of the great abufe committed on the Lords day by the goeing of Salt panns in the toune of Pittenweem, and craveing their advice herein; and they confidering that this abufe is not onlie peculiar to that place, but generall through many parts of Fyfe, they thought fitt to referr it to the Synod for advice, that fo a joynt courfe may be folloued for fuppreffing thefe abufes.

Cameron, December 13.—[Mr. John Olyphant admitted minifter there.]

Anftruther-Wefter, May 1, 1695.—[Mr. Thomas Black inducted minifter there.]

Leuchars, Julie 3.—[Mr. George Gordon admitted minifter there.]

October 30.—*Affair anent Beatrix Laing delayed.*—The Prefbytrie haveing heard a propofal from Mr. Patrick Coupar for advice anent a fcandal, tabled before their Seffion, againft one Beatrix Laing, concerning a charm ufed by her, and finding the matter weightie, and they fo ftraitened with time, the confideration of it is referred to the nixt dyet.

Februar 26, 1696.—[Mr. George Hamilton, minifter at Newburn, tranflated to the parifh of St. Leonards,[1] and made Principal of St. Leonards College.]

Petition James Tod.—The Prefbitrie takeing into their confideration a petition given in by James Tod, defireing that they would take notice of a charm ufed againft his fon, by Beatrix Laing in the towne of Pittenweem, They appoint Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Walter Wilfon, Mr. James Drummond, and Mr. Robert Fairweather, to meet at Pittenweem on Weddenfday next with the Seffion there, and to continue their diets, as they fhall find caufe, for making fearch and inquirie in that affair; and to doe everie thing that fhall be found neceffarie for getting clearnefs therin, and to report the next diet.

April 1.—*Report anent David Tod, &c.*—As to the affair relating to

[1] Mr. Hamilton, as minister of Newburn, was outed on the restoration of Episcopacy in 1661, and appears to have resided in London till he was called by the Presbytery in January 1694 to resume his charge. He resigned the principality and ministery of St. Leonards in November 1696; and was transported to Edinburgh in 1697.

charms in the toune of Pittenweem, Mr. Patrick Coupar, minifter there, reports, that the bretheren, according to the Prefbitries order, did meet there, and made inquirie into it, and that David Tod, the partie purfueing, did faile in his probation laid in againft Beatrix Laing, whom he purfueing for ufeing a charm againft his fon. This report being confidered by the Prefbitrie, they found that they could proceed no further in it at the time.

Julie 22.—[Mr. Robert Cleiland admitted minifter at Newburn.]

May 4, 1697.—[Mr. Patrick Tullideph ordained minifter at Ferrieportoun-craig.]

Julie 7.—Likewife, the faid Mr. Thomas Forrefter, defired the advice of the Prefbitrie, what he fhould doe in cenfuring fome perfons who were convict before the magiftrat of theft, and refetting of ftoln goods, and were accordinglie punifhed by them. In anfuer to which, they advife that they be called before the congregation, and there openlie rebuked for their fin.

September 1.—[Mr. John Anderfon, minifter at Leflie, tranfported to St. Leonards, and appointed Principal of St. Leonards College.]

September 2.—[Mr. James Knox admitted minifter at Deninnow.]

September 15.—[Mr. Alexander Shields ordained minifter at St. Andrews.]

March 16, 1698.—*Anent the Centefima.*—The Prefbitrie confidering, that by ane Act of the laft Synod held at Kirkcaldie, it is recommended to the refpective Prefbitries to choofe a collector for gathering the Centefima of minifters ftipends to be beftowed upon the widows of deceafed minifters or their children; and being ignorant of what other Prefbitries have done in this affair, therefore they judged it fitt to delay this till after the next Synod, that it may be known what fteps other Prefbitries have taken in this affair, that fo they may take fuch meafures as they fhall find moft convenient.

Anent Archibald Reddie.—The Prefbitrie takeing the affair of Archibald Reddie, (a perfon proceff'd, for ufeing charmes in adminiftering cures to fick perfones and cattal, before the Synod), into their confideration, and finding, that it is recommended by the laft Synod to minifters to inquire

what of that nature hath been done by him in their particular charges, according to what information they can hear of this matter; and the bretheren being aſked if they had any information to give in againſt him; Mr. Patrick Coupar gave in ane information in write, as it was declared before the Seſſion of Pittenweem; as alſo, Mr. Thomas Black gave in another as it was declaired before the Seſſion of Anſtruther Weſter. Both which papers are to be given in by the clerk to the Synod when it meets. And the Preſbitrie appoints the reſt of the bretheren who can have any information from their Seſſions concerning the ſaid Archibald Reddie his uſeing of charms in his giveing of cures, to have them in readineſs againſt the Synods meeting, that all may be preſented together.

March 16.—*Anent a Woman repute a Soothſayer.*—The Preſbitrie takeing into their conſideration, that it was remitted to them by the laſt Synod to raiſe a proceſs againſt a woman in the pariſh of St. Andreus, who is reputed to be a ſoothſayer, and to proceed againſt her as they ſhould ſie cauſe. And now, being informed that ſhe is gone out of the bounds, they know not whether, they find that they can doe nothing in this affair.

May 4.—*Anent the Woman reput a Soothſayer.*—The Preſbitrie having informed the Synod, that the woman delated for a ſoothſayer in St. Andreus pariſh is now gone out of the bounds, and that it is not known whether: Upon which it was recommended to all the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, that if ſhe could be found out in anie of their reſpective congregations, to cauſe apprehend her, and to ſend her back to St. Andreus, that ſo ſhe might be made to anſuer before this Preſbitry for what is charged againſt her.

Auguſt 10.—*Supplies.*—Mr. Sheilds reports, that he had occaſion to ſpeake with Mr. William Dunlop, Principal of the Colledge of Glaſgow, and with Mr. James Broune, miniſter there, who told him, that they have no young men at preſent to ſpare, either to this or anie other Preſbitrie.

Report anent the Soothſayer.—As to that woman who lived once in the pariſh of St. Andreus, and reputed to be a ſoothſayer, Mr. John Olyphant reports, that latelie he had a letter from Mr. James Broun, miniſter in Glaſgow, ſhewing that ſhe was in their bounds, and when challenged, pro-

duced a teſtimonial, which ſhe ſaid was granted to her by the Seſſion of Cameron, and that he deſired to know if the Seſſion of Cameron had granted that teſtificat. The ſaid Mr. Olyphant reports alſo, that he wrote back a letter to Mr. Broun, ſhewing in what circumſtances ſhe was in with this Preſbitrie, and that ſhe had feignied that teſtimonial. The Preſbitrie having heard and conſidered the ſaid report, they found they could proceed no further in this affair at the time.

September 21.—*Anent Archibald Reddie.*—This day, was preſented and read a minut of the laſt Synod concerning Archibald Reddie, which is as follows:

ATT ST. ANDREUS, 6 APRIL 1698, *hora* 3*tia post meridiem.*

Anent Archibald Reddie, under process before the Synod for charming, &c., this Provinciall Synod appoints the ministers within their respective bounds, to give publick intimations from their pulpits, for all the people to forbear consulting him, under the paine of incurring severe censure, and that he shall find cautione to the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting, to ansuer their disciplin. As also, the Synod appoints that the persones who have already imployed him within the bounds of the Synod, shall he censured, as the respective Sessions shall see fitt. This voted and approven, he was summoned *apud acta* to compear before the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting; and in face of the Synod, the said Archibald Reddie promised to forbear anie future practiseing in his former sinfull wayes for the time to come.

Sic subscribitur, WILL. MACKY, *Cl. Syn.*

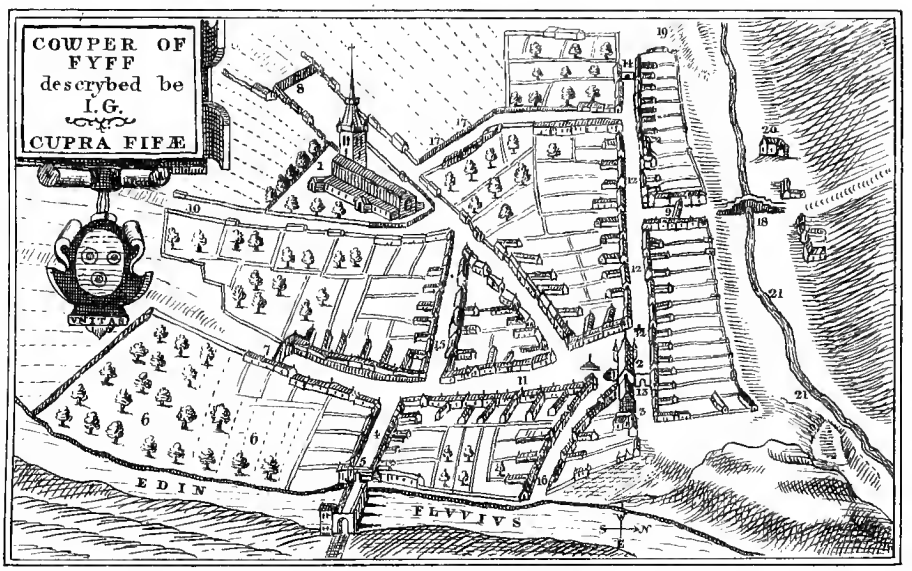
Which being conſidered by the Preſbitrie, they did, and hereby doe recommend it to the bretheren, to give obedience to the ſaid Act, in ſo farr as it concernes them.

Anent the goeing of ſalt pans on the Lords day.—The Preſbitrie being informed, that it will be verie needfull, in order to the ſuppreſſing the profanation of the Lords day, by the goeing of ſalt panns, that the Synod would addreſs the Juſtices of peace to interpoſe their authoritie for the ſaid effect. Therefore, they referr this affair to the Synod, for their concurrence herein.

October 5.—[Mr. John Wood, miniſter at Kilrinnie, dimitted his miniſtery.]

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR,

1646-1660.



1	The Church	8	The Kirkgate Port	15	Short Wynde
2	Tollbüth	9	Lady Port & Wynd	16	Bober Wynde
3	The Castell	10	Ashler gate Street	17 17	Provosts Wynde
4	Bridge Wynd	11	Crofs Street	18	Lady Bridge
5	Bridge Port	12 12	Bonny gate Street	19	Mute Hill
6 6	The Barony	13	East Port	20	Well Tower
7	The Mill Port	14	West Port	21 21	Lady Burne

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.

Συν Θεῳ.

THE MEITINGS AND PROCEIDINGS OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPER SINCE THE LAST PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLYE HOLDEN AT CUPER OCTOBER 6, 1646.

October 22, 1646.—The brether wer ordained to keip the faſt, indicted by the Provinciall Aſſemblye to be keipt throughout the whole province, the nixt Thurſday, the 29 of October inſtant, the cawſes being the ſame that wer of the laitte former faſt, the pleague of peſtilence, the rageing enemies in Argyle preaſſing to eſtabliſhe papiſtrie there.

Mr. David Dalgleiſhe declared, that Mr. Walter Greig and he gave in the names of thoſe ſuſpect of complyeancie with the enemies, to the Synodal Aſſemblye, and, being authorized by them, gave them in to the Committie of the Shyre.

Mr. George Thomſone, miniſter at Kilmanie, repreſenting to the Preſbyterie that ther was no mantainance in ther paroche for a ſchoole, deſyred the brethers adviſe and aſſiſtance for helpeing of it: The breither tooke it to conſideratione whil the nixt day.

November 5.—Concerning the perſons in the paroche of Cupar ſuſpect of complyencie with the enemie, viz. Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour, James Clephan, and James Baxter, who wer ſummond to compeir this day; and compeiring, the Moderator aſked Mr. David Dalgleiſhe, What

was the ground quherupon the ſaid Mr. David deſyrd them to be ſummond? who anſering, declared, that he was informed be the Seſſione of Cupar, that the Gordons wer in Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour his howſe; that he was lykewayes informed by the ſaid Seſſion, that James Clephan convoyed thame to Forfar, and, as he was informed, it was to ſeike a diſcharge of the monye given be the Towne of Cuper to the ſaids Rebels; that he was lykwayes informed, that James Baxter was in companie with James Grhame, being in the Laird of Park his ſervice in Buchanan.

Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour being examined, confeſſed, they came to his howſe, and wer in his howſe againſt his will; and ſaid, he was not able to hold them owt, nor to eſchew them.

James Clephan, being aſked, declared, he was ſent by David Robertſone, dean of guild in Cuper, David Robertſone bailzie, and David Robertſone, ſone to David Robertſone dean of guild, to follow them to get a diſcharge for the monyes given to the Gordones be the Towne of Cuper. James Clephan was ſummond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt Thurſeday.

Mr. Alexander Balfoure, haveing formarlie acquainted the Preſbyterie with that protectioune whiche the Laidie of Aytoune had received, made report, that the Laidie had moſt humblie, in the face of the congregatione, teſtified hir repentance, conforme to the ordinance of the Generall Aſſemblye.

November 26.—Jonet and Marie Mitchells, in the paroche of Kilmanie, ſclandered of witchecraft by occaſione of ſomething ſpoken be Griſſell Thomſone, who was brunt for witchecraft, did ſupplicat the Preſbyterie to have the ſaid ſclander tryed. Quherupon the Preſbyterie deſyred that Griſſall Thomſone hir delatione concerning the ſaid Jonet and Marie Mitchells ſhould be ſought from the clerk of the proces, and preſented the nixt day.

December 17.—Rankilor Sibbald elder, compeiring, and being aſked anent the new reſetting of Newtongordone, declared, that the reaſon was becaus he had Middletonis paſſe: The ſaid Rankilor elder was ſummond *apud acta* againſt the nixt day.

December 31.—The quhilk day, the bretheren haveing conſidered the whole proces concerning Rankilor Sibbald elder, althoughe they doe not

find him to come under anye of the claſſes of complyencie with the rebels expreſt in the Act of the Generall Aſſemblye; yet becaus, throughe the rebels being a night in his howſe at that time when they went throughe the ſhyre of Fyffe, they find that ther is a pregnant ſclander concerning him taking impreſſione in the heartes of manye, as iff he had reallie complyed with them in ther wicked cowrſes; therfor, they think it meit, and ordaine, for removeing of the ſaid ſclander, that the ſaid Rankilor Sibbald elder, the nixt Sabbathe day, publictlie in the Congregatione, after ſermone befor the bliſſing, ſtand up in his owin ſeat, and declare that he hathe bein alwayes free of complying with them in ther cowrſes of rebellione; and that ther being in his howſe, was without anye invitatione or allowance upon his part, and altogether againſt his will and deſyr, he not being able in that exigent either to eſchew them or hinder them: And appoints Mr. David Dalgleiſhe to report his carriage in that matter to the Preſbyterie the nixt Thurſday.

Ther was received this day, ane letter ſent from the Commiſſione of the Generall Aſſemblye, ſhewing that they had emitted ane Warning, quherof nynteen copies wer received and given to the ſeverall bretheren of our Preſbyterie to reade and explaine, according to the Act printed therwithe, and that in ther ſeveral kirks on Sonday nixt; pryce being 12 s.; deſyring lykewayes, to ſend to James Murray the pryces of the acts of the laſt Aſſemblye, Cawſes of the Faſt, and his tuentie ſhillings for this preſent yeir; as alſo, the pryces of the Declaratione and Proclamatione againſt Seafort, and Cawſes of the Faſt, pryce 4 s.: As alſo, declaring that James Ogylvie, ſone to ſometymes Earle of Airlie, was relaxed in the Eaſt Kirk of Edinburghe from the ſentence of excommunicatione; deſyring the ſame to be intimat, in the ſeveral paroche kirks within this Preſbyterie owt of pulpite be the miniſter, the nixt Sabbathe.

Received alſo ane other letter from the ſaid Commiſſione, recommending to the charitie of the bretheren Mr. James Kirk, miniſter of Dunblane, who had his howſes, cornes, bookes, and whole goods brunt and deſtroyed, himſelfe, his wyffe, and ſeven young children ſpoiled of all means of lyveliehood; quhilk they tooke to conſideratione whil the nixt day.

Anent the women, Jonet and Marie Mitchels in Kilmenie, ſclandered of

witchecraft, by reaſon of ſomething that Griſſall Thomſone had ſpoken anent them, Mr. George Thomſone reports, that he had ſpoken of that matter in the Commiſſione of the Kirk, and that ther opinion was, that it was verie hard to keip young weomen under ſclander, and to marre ther fortune in the world, and debar them from the benefite of the Kirk, quher ther is nothing but the delatione of one witche, without anye ſclander befor, or anye other pregnant preſumptione before or ſince. Quherfor the Preſbyterie did appoint the ſaid Mr. George to call befor him publictlie in the congregatione the ſaid Jonet and Marie Mitchels, and to intimat to the congregatione how that, after all tryelle uſed, nothing was found againſt them ſaffe onlye that quhilk that wretche ſpak, and how cruell a thing it was, upon ſo weake a grounde, to keip them under ſo foul a ſclander; and that he ſhould charge them publictlie, that iff they knew anye other thing againſt the ſaidis perſons whiche might be anye preſumptione of ther being guiltie of that wickednes, they wold declare it befor the nixt Lords day; and that iff none ſhould laye anye other thing to ther charge befor that day, that then they ſhould the nixt Lords day be declared free of that ſclander, and not anye more be debard from the benefite of the Kirk.

Januarij 7, 1647.—Mr. David Dalgleiſhe declared that the Seſſion of Cupar was fullie ſatiſfied with Sir James Sibbald of Rankilor his declaratione the laſt Sabbathe; quherto the brether acquieſced.

David Barclay ſtil contumacious and diſobedient to the Seſſion of Creiche, the brether ſent for ane bailzie, who compeiring was deſyred to put him in firmance, and hold him in firmance, untill, upon cautione, he ſhould promiſe to ſatiſfie the Kirk Seſſion of Creiche.

Januarij 14.—The brether received aue letter from the Commiſſione of the Kirk, together with twentie copies of aue Act and Letter for a ſupplie to be collected in the ſeveral paroches for the diſtreſſed people of Argyle.

Januarij 21.—David Barclay, in the paroche of Creiche, compeiring, was enjoyned to make his repentance befor the pulpite in the kirk of Creiche on Sabbathe, for the breiche of the Sabbathe in threſſing corne, and ane other for his obſtinacie and rebellioun; as alſo ordained to pay a dolor of penaltie.

February 4.—Sir David Sibbald compeiring, and being aſked anent his complyencie with the enemie, declared, that they wer in his hows againſt his will; and being aſked iff he prayed for them, denyed that he did pray for them. The brether being informed that the Laird of Forther, Carſloggie elder, Bagrigge, and James Clephan, wer in his howſe at that tyme, appointed them to be ſummond againſt the nixt Thurſday, to compeir and declare to the Preſbyterie how the ſaid Sir David Sibbald behaved himſelfe in the companie of the ſaidis Rebels.

February 18.—This day compeired Sir David Sibbald, as alſo the Laird of Forther and Bagriggie, as witneſſes, to declare what they knew in the matter anent the ſaid Sir David his complyencie with the enemie; and the ſaid Sir David being aſked, whither he did except anye thing againſt the ſaidis gentlemen as witneſſes, anſered, he did except nothing againſt them; quherupon the ſaidis two witneſſes being requyred, upon ther oathe, to declare what they knew in the ſaid matter, declared as followes:

The Laird of Forther being queſtioned, declared, he did not hear the ſaid Sir David pray for the enemie; and being aſked iff ther wer anye healthes drunken, declared, that he ſaw none druken but the Kings healthe; with all declaring, that the ſaid Sir David did entertainie the ſaids rebels verie kyndlie, and that they were welcome to him, and that in a jeaſting way he ſaid, "This is the day quheron ye ſhould have bein at the Comittie."

Bagriggie declared, he hard him not pray for the enemies; that ther was no healthe druken but the Kings healthe; and that Sir David was verie violent againſt the Laird of Forther, declaring to the rebels, that the Laird of Forther was the greateſt enemie in the Committie that he hade, deſyring the ſaids rebels to take a revenge of him for it.

The Act anent pennie brythels was delayed till the Provinciall Aſſemblye while the matter ſhould be more ryplie adviſed there.

This day David Barclay, portioner of Lithrie, compeired, ſhewing that he had brought owt of Lawthean Beſſie Couper and hir daughter, bothe ſuſpect of witchecraft, craveing the adviſe of the brether what he ſhould doe with them. The brether did adviſe the ſaid David to keip them untill Soneday nixt, and preſent them to the Seſſion of Creiche.

February 25, 1647.—Mr. Johne Ramſay and Mr. Johne Litlejohne, were appointed to ſpeak to my Lord Anandell at his firſt comeing home owt of Edinburghe, and aſke his Lordſhip whither he had ſatiſſied the Kirk for his complyencie with the enemie or not, and to report to the Preſbyterie.

Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he ſpake to Kingaſk anent the removeing of the monuments of ſuperſtitione in the kirk of Darſie, who ſaid to him that he was attending Sir George Moriſon his homecoming from Edinburghe.

Mr. Johne Makgil elder, Mr. Walter Greig, and Mr. Andrew Bennett, ar appointed to ſpeake to Beſſie Couper, and trye iff they could have anye confeſſione of her concerning witchecraft.

Marche 4.—The brether haveing diverſe tymes conveined Sir David Sibbald befor them, and haveing made diligent ſearche of the degree of his delinquencie of the complying with the commone Enemies, have found, partlie by witneſſes and more fullie by his owin confeſſione, that he did receive ſome of them to his howſe and entertainied them too kyndlie; quhilk the ſaid Sir David this day acknowledged befor us, wiſſing he had rather quat his countrye nor bein ſo familiar withe them, and humblye ſubmitting himſelfe to our cenſure. All quhilk being taken to our ſerious conſideratione, we decerned, lykas be theſe preſents we doe decerne, according to the Act of the laite Generall Aſſemblye, he being in the ſecond claſſe of theſe delinquents, that he ſhal make confeſſione of the ſaid overſight, and ſhew his ſerious repentance therfor publictlie befor the pulpite of the kirk of Moniemell, the nixt Sabbathe immediatlye following; upon the quhilk repentance he ſhalbe received be the miniſter.

Mr. Johne Makgill elder, and Mr. Walter Greig, that were appointed to ſpeake to Beſſie Couper, ſuſpect of witchecraft, declared, they ſpake to hir, but ſhe confeſſed nothing to them. The brether appointed Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Rankilor Makgill younger, to ſpeak to the Magiſtrats of Cupar for ane ward howſe quherin ſhe might be keipt till farder tryelle.

The ingathering of the collectione for the ſupplie of the people of Argyle is delayed, by reaſone the people ar burdained with quartering of ſogers now goeing to the Noarthe, and alſo of the Monthlie mantinance.

Marche 11.—Concerning Sir David Sibbald his ſatiſfactione according to the ordinance the day preceiding, it is found, that he had no wiſe ſatiſfied the ordinance of the Preſbyterie, becaus neither his confeſſione was full as it had bein in the Preſbyterie the day befor, neither had he humbled himſelfe upon his knees; his expreſſione was ſuche as the commone people could not underſtand; he had his piſtols about his ſyde, and went foorthe befor the bliſſing immediatlie after the miniſter had ceaſſed to ſpeak to him; and becaus, compeiring, he is found not ſenſible of his miſcarriages, he is ſummoned *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day.

The matter concerning Beſſie Cupar, ſclandered for witchecraft in the paroche of Creiche, is delayed untill Mr. Andrew Bennett his returne from Edinburghe.

Quheras, it is reported by Mr. Lawrence Olyphant, miniſter at Newburghe, that moſt pairt of the elders and inhabitants of the paroche of Neuburghe, had converſed withe Andrew Anderſone, who was excommunicate three yeir ſince in the ſaid paroche; the Preſbyterie being deeplie affected withe the ſaid miſcarriage, and conſidering how muche of that kynd abounds in the land, whilas ſo manye ar excommunicate, doe refer the matter to the conſideratione of the Provinciall Aſſemblye, that a ſolide cowrſe may be taken, bothe for puniſhing this ſo haynous ane offence, and for preventing the lyke in tyme comeing; and diſcharges Mr. Lawrence to give the Communion whil the Provinciall be paſt.

The Preſbyterie received a letter from the Commiſſione of the Kirk, appointing a faſt to be keipt the firſt Sabbathe of Appryle, for the ſucceſſe of the expeditione to the Noarthe, and for the other cauſes of humiliatione that ar up and downe the land; and for deſyring the Members of the Commiſſione of the Kirk to repair to Abirdaine the ſecond Wedenſday of Maij; whiche was red and recommendet to the brether.

March 18.—The quhilk day, the brether, taking to ther conſideratione the report made be Mr. David Orme of the deficiencie of Sir David Sibbald's declaratione of repentance in ſindrie points at the Kirk of Moniemel, doe heirby ordaine him to mak declaratione alſo of his repentance in the Kirk of Cult this nixt Sabbathe, in a humble manner upon his knees befor the pulpite, for all his former miſcarriages.

The quhilk day, David Veitche compeiring, and confeſſing his being withe the enemie at Kilſythe and Philiphaughe, the brether, conforme to the Act of the Generall Aſſemblye, ordained him in a humble manner upon his knees to confeſſe his fault, and declare his repentance in a humble manner upon his knees befor the Preſbyterie; quhilk he performed: And alſo ordained him to compeir befor the pulpite of the kirk of Darſie this nixt Sabbathe to doe the lyk, according to the Act of the Generall Aſſemblye.

Mr. Andrew Bennett and Mr. Walter Greig wer appointed to ſpeak Mr. Thomas Melvin at the Synod, for planting of the ſchoole of Moniemell.

April 1.—Beſſie Cupar in the paroche of Lithrie, ſuſpect of witchecraft, is referd to be adviſed withe the Provinciall Aſſemblye; as alſo the caice of ſindrie others lying under the ſclander of witchecraft, and not yet cleared.

It is referred to the Aſſemblye to adviſe concerning the eccleſiaſtick cenſure to be inflicted in this caice, wher tuo young men have, for the ſpace of three quarters of a yeir, layin in harlotrie withe one woman, bothe of them having hir at once *ſucceſſivè* upon all occaſions of purpoſe, as the woman thought hirſelfe that ſhe might not conceive withe childe.

This day, the bretheren taking to ther conſideratione the eſtate and conditione of the great benefices, owt of the quhilk they have there aſſignations, and fra quhilk ſhould ariſe the maintinance of the fabrick of the Kirks and kirk dykes, and alſo furniture for the Communione Elements to be miniſtred four tymes in the yeir; and that [it] was expedient thir things ſhould be aſſured to the Kirks in tyme, They have referred this whole matter to the conſideratione of the Synodal Aſſemblye nixt enſweing; as alſo, to have there adviſe and concurrance anent the ſetling of gleibs and manſes, and the ſetling of viccarage dweties.

Aprile 15.—*James Wilkie his cenſure.*—James Wilkie in the pariſh of Culleſſie, called and compeiring, the brether takeing to ther conſideratione the greatnes of his fault, (he being ane elder,) in breakeing of the Sabboth day, and labouring to cover the ſaid fine by the teſtimonie of other men; as alſo, till affront both the Seſſions of Monymaill and Culleſſie, ordained [him] firſt to appear befor the Seſſione of Culleſſie the next Sabboth day,

and humblie vpon his knees to acknowledge his fault in the abuſe and contempt of that Judicatorie; and immediatelie therafter to be depoſed from his elderſhipe be the Seſſione, and the depoſitione to be intimate the Sabboth following; the quhilk day, he ſhall humblie acknowledge vpon his knees his great fine in contemneing the Kirk Judicatories; and the Sabboth after that, he ſall publictlie ſatſfie for breach of the Sabboth, according to common ordour.

Letter to my Lord Annandaill.—The Preſbyterie reſolved to writte to my Lord Annandaile, anent Maige Reikie inceſtuous; as alſo anent Beſſie Cuper ſuſpected of witchecraft.

Crawfurd concurreing in the matter of Cuper.—The Erle of Craufurd being preſent, was deſired to be carefull for planteing of a ſecond miniſter in Cuper, who promiſed to be carefull; and the brether appoynt this day fourtene dayes for meitteing of the Towne and Heritours of the pariſh of Cuper for that effect, the ſaid Earle promiſeing to be preſent the ſaid day, and to concurre in the matter foirſaid.

Aprile 22.—Sir John Spottiſwoods declaratione.—Sir John Spottiſwood compeired, and being aſked, if he was in companie with the Enemie? anſered, he came to Cuper to them to ſeik back his horſes which they had taken from him. And being enquired, if he did eate and drinke with them? anſered, he did upon this occaſione; and being aſked, whither he went to Tarvate with them? anſered, he did it, but upon Forther his requeſt, that he ſhould ſpeak to Rankilour, that he might ſpeake to Newtoune Gordoune for him. And being aſked, if he went to the Newburgh with them? replyed, he did, to gett his horſes which wer carried along to Abernethie, and not rendred without money. He was alſo enquired, if [he] knew of any of his ſones goeing to the Enemie? anſered, that his ſecond ſone went to Generall Ruthwen when he was abſent in Ingland; that he had bought five or ſex yeiris ſince, ane Enſignes place for his thrid ſone, and ſent him to Germanie, and had never ſeen him ſince that time, but now of late; and laſtlie, that his eldeſt ſone went into Montroſe, bothe againſt his knowledge and his will. And being queſtioned, if he did reſett his ſone ſince Philiphaugh? anſered, not befor the generall licence and publict pardone of the Eſtates. And being further enquired, if David

Weitch was in his houſe in the tyme of the Parliament of St. Andrews? anſered, that he came to it with my Lord Lundoris: And laſtlie being aſked, if my Lord Gordoune or any of his brether wer in his houſe at Newmilne? he anſered, never. The brether delayed this matter till this day fiveten dayes. Sir John was ſummoned *apud acta* to be preſent the ſaid day. Mr. John Ramſay deſired to enquire of the Laird of Forther and his man, what they knew in the matter, and the whole brether to enquire in ther ſeverall ſeſſiones if they did know any point of malignancie in the ſaid Sir Johne.

AT NEWBURGH, 13 MAY 1647.

Elders of Newburgh ther confeſſione and cenſure.—The quhilk day, the Preſbyterie held at Newburgh for executione of the ordinance made the laſt day at Cupar. And after ſermon made be Mr. Johne Durie, and incalling on the name of God, Mr. James Wedderburne, Moderator for the tyme, aſked Mr. Laurence Olyphant, whither or not he had made intimatione of the appoyntment of the Preſbyterie made the laſt day? anſered, he had done the ſame, and gave in the names of the elders who eate and drank with Andrew Anderſone excommunicate, viz. David Wentoune, Johne Layng, Thomas Anderſone, Patrick Birrell, Johne Low, Mr. David Fairfull, Patrick Ramſay, and Andrew Anderſone his father, who prayed with his ſone excommunicate. The foirſaid perſones being particularlie interrogate be the Moderator, declaired, they drank with him. As alſo, the ſaid Mr. Laurence gave in the names of thes who confeſſed they did take him by the hand, but did not drinke with him, wiz. Johne Philp, Patrik Beatt, Johne Birrell. The Moderator, ſhewing to the ſaids Elders the greatnes of ther fine with the foirſaid excommunicate perſon, appoynted Mr. Laurence Olyphant to intimate out of pulpit the next Sabboth, a day of humiliatione to be keipit on Sunday come aucht dayes therafter be the whole pariſh of Newburgh, that all and everie one of them may be humbled for ſo great a fine. And in particulair, the forſaid elders ar appoynted to ſitt befor the ſaid pulpit the ſaid day, and everie one of them particulairlie to acknowledge ther fine in

converſeing with the forſaid excommunicate perſoune; and Andrew Anderſone for praying with him. And therafter the ſaid Mr. Laurence is appoynted to receave them. All which was done according to the Act of Synod made theranent.

Maij 27.—David Blyth his repentance.—David Blyth in the pariſh of Ebdie, (for ſhedding of blood on the Sabboth day,) is appoynted to ſtand at the kirke doore of Ebdie, Sonday next, barefooted and bareheadit, with the gun in his hand wherwith the blood wes ſhedde, vntill the laſt bell, and thairafter to ſitt befor the pulpitt the tyme of ſermon, and, after ſermon, to acknowledge and confeſſe vpon his knees his ſine, and then be receaved.

June 3.—Intimatione of the act of the Committie.—This day, the brether reported ther diligence in intimateing the Act of the Committie anent the receaveing of perſones comeing from places ſuſpected of the plague, and wer approven thairin.

Act for the two young men ther repentance.—Mr. David Orme, produceing the proceſſe anent Mr. Harie Cuper and Mungo Duddingſtone, fornicatores, was approven: And they themſelfes compeireing both in ſackcloth, wer ordained to ſatiſfie according to the Act of the Synod. [1]

Perſones excommunicate.—Receaved from Mr. Walter Greig the names of the perſones excommunicate by the authoritie of the Commiſſione of the Generrall Aſſemblye, viz. Mr. Alexander Innes, ane depoſed miniſter; Mr. William Maitland, ane preacher; Ludovicke Gordone, ſone to the late Marqueſſe of Huntlie; Arthur Forbes, ane follower of the ſaid Ludovick; Patrik Gordoune with the ſteill hand; Alexander Gordoune; Patrik Leith of Harthill; Johne Gordoune of Feichell; William Gordoune of Newtoune younger.

June 10.—Faſt to be keiped.—The brether reſolved to keipe the faſt appoynted be the Synod, and to adde to the cauſes contained in the Act, the ſpreading of the plague within the ſhyre.

Letter to Faulkland.—Ther was ane letter drawn vpe to be ſent to Faulk-

[1] They appear to be the two young men referred to in the question put by the Presbytery to the Synod, 1st April 1647, *q v.*

land and Auchtermuchtie to defire them to forbeare ther enfueing fares be reafone of the peftilence.

References read.—The references from the Synod to the Prefbyterie wer read in audience of the brether.

Familie exercife recommendit.—1. The brether being enquired anent familie exercife, declared they ufed diligence: It was recommendit to the brether be the Moderator to ufe farther diligence.

Anent Schooles.—2. Anent Schooles, it was recommendit to the brether to try whether ther fchooles wer provydit according to the Act of Parliament, and to report the next day.

Anent Da. Glaine.—3. Anent David Glaine murtherer, Mr. David Dalgleifh reported he had written to Mr. James Bruce, promifeing to proceed after that Mr. James had prayed the thrid tyme for him.

Anent a colleague in Cuper.—4. Anent the provydeing for a colleague to Mr. David Dalgleifh in the Kirk of Cuper, the brether refolves to writte to the Commiffione that fitts for plantatione of Kirks, and to concurre with the heritors and parifhioners of Cuper.

Act anent Sabboth.—5. The Act anent the breach of the Sabboth is to be extracted.

Anent pennie briddels.—6. The Act of Juftice of Peace anent pennie bryddells to be fought for be Mr. James Martine from Alexander Martiall.

Vifitatione of Kirks delayed.—Be reafone of the plague fpotteing abroad, the brether delayed the Vifitatione of Kirks for a tyme.

Advice anent the Plague.—The Laird of Fernie, commiffioner from the Committie of the Shyre, compeired, defireing the bretheris concurrence for preventeing the prefent daunger of infectione: Quherinto the brether condifcended, and ordained the Act followeing:—

This day, after the incalling of the name of God, the brether being myndit be Sir James Arnott of Fernie knyght, of the defire of the Committie of the Shyre for our concurrence with them to the preventeing of the prefent daunger of infectione, and the fpreading thairof in the fhyre, have thought it our duetie to give all our heartie concurrence to the uttermoft of our abilitie in fuch a good and neceffar bufines, not only in re-

gard of the care that wee ſhould have of the outward ſocietie and peace of the ſhyre, quherin everie one of us have our intereſt, but alſo, and ſpeciallie in regard of the great care incompetent to us anent our Lords glorie, and the keipeing of our congregationes togidder vndiſſolved, quhilk wee would judge to be the greateſt plague of all, if it ſhould pleaſe the Lord ſo to diſpoſe: Therfor wee have thought fitt, if it ſhall ſeeme guid to your Honours, that, firſt, ye would be pleaſed to ſeik the concurrence of our brether in other Preſbyteries: Secondlie, wee have thocht guid, after mor ſerious deliberatione, that, if it ſall ſeeme fitting to the Honourable Committie of the ſhyre, tuo brether of our number, togidder with ane elder ſent from us, ſall concur with yow in this matter, with ther beſt advice at your ſeverall meittings as they ſalbe allowed and directed by us and required by yow: Thridlie, wee thinke it moſt expedient that exact care be taken in all townes and landwart pariſhes of civill paſſes and ſpirituall teſtimonialls, with ſevere puniſhement againſt the counterfitters, and ſuch eccleſiaſtik cenſures as the ſeverall Seſſiones ſall thinke expedient: Fourtlie, wee, haveing conſidered the great daunger proceiding from the diſobedience of publick ordoures of them who, at this tyme and in this caſe, hes the chairge of the ſhyre, have thocht meit that whatſomever publict ordoures made by the publict, and ſeene and allowed be us, anent the preventeing of the further ſpreadeing of the Plague, is either neglegentlie or wilfullie tranſgreſt and broken, we ſall cenſure the ſaidis perſones ſpirituallie, and by thir preſents determines in maner after followeing, wiz. He that is proven negligent in obeyeing the publict ordoures of the ſhyre duelie made and conſtitute for the common benefite, and for preventeing the fearefull diſſolutione of congregationes, out of any wanton or inſolent humor, ſalbe commandit be our ſeverall Seſſiones to make his repentance befor the pulpit on ane Sabboth day as ane contemner of guid ordour, as unnaturall to his owne lyffe, the liffe of his familie and neighbouris, as vnchriſtian in neglecting the weilfare and proſperitie of the holy meitteing. Iff any man throch willfull contempt ſall deſpiſe the ordour civill, and now this ordour ſpirituall, be he miniſter, elder, or one of the people, rich or poor, great or ſmall, ſall be under the proces of the Kirk vntill the greateſt, at the diſcretione of the Preſbyteries: And all

this without the prejudice of the judgement and concurrence of our brethren in the reſt of the Preſbyteries.

June 24.—*Mercates diſcharged.*—Mr. James Martine and Mr. William Levingſtone declaired that, according to the deſire of the Preſbyterie, the townes of Faulkland and Auchtermuchtie had diſcharged ther mercates becaus of the Plague.

Andro Anderſone ſatiſfied.—Mr. Laurence Olyphant declaired that Andro Anderſone elder, had ſatiſfied the Kirk according to the ordinance of the Preſbyterie, for prayeing with his ſone excommunicate.

July 15.—*Supplicatione Johne Spindie.*—This day, Johne Spindie, merchant of Dalkeith, declaired into the Preſbyterie that he had maried Jean Buchan, but vnder the name of Jeane Paterſone, and deſired ſhee might be cleared of the aſperſione of witchcraft which was put upon her, that he might have her for his wyffe: The Preſbyterie required him to report a teſtificate of his marriage from Mr. Hue Campbell, miniſter at Dalkeith, and thairafter they wer to give ther anſer.

David Glaine excommunicate.—Mr. David Dalgleiſh reported, he had pronounced the ſentence of excommunicatione againeſt David Glaine, murtherer; intimatione to be made thairoff in all the kirks of the Preſbyterie, and letters to be directed to the other Preſbyteries, that the ſame may be intimate throughout the province.

Supplie for David Allerdice.—The brether deſired to deale with ther ſeverall Seſſiones anent ſupplie for rebuilding David Allerdice his houſe in Faukland, brunt at command of the Committie of the ſhyre for avoyding the plague.

John Hamilton to be ſummoned.—Johne Hammiltoune, in the pariſh of Faukland, to be ſummoned againſt the next day for his bloodie oathes againes God, and his miſbehaviour towards his miniſter.

Auguſt 26.—*Helen Deas to be ſummoned.*—Helen Deas appoynted to be ſummoned for abuſeing of the place of repentance, and her not giveing ſatiſfactione to the congregatione.

September 9.—*A reference anent Schooles.*—A reference to the Synod anent proviſione of Schooles in a tuofold reſpect; firſt, of thes pariſhes that ar large and great may take themſelfes to the leaſt alterna-

tive contained in the act of Parliament made anent Schooles, wiz. a hundreth merkis, or may be ſtented higher, according to the largenes and proportione with other pariſhes? Secondlie, whither Schooles formerlie provydit, but not reacheing to this leaſt alternative of ane hundreth merkis, may the pariſhioners be now urged be vertue of this late act of Parliament, made in favours of Schooles, to provyde the ſchole according to the ſame or not?

September 16.—*John Hamilton compeireth.*—John Hamiltoune, in the pariſh of Faukland, called and compeirand, confeſſed his fault; was appoynted to acknowledge the ſame vpon his knees befor the miniſter and baylzies, firſt in the place wher he committed it, ſecondlie befor the ſeſſione, and thridlie befor the pulpit.

October 21.—*Pennie bryddells.*—The Preſbyterie, conſidering the Act of the late Synod holden at Dumfermling, the 6 of Aprile 1647, for repreſſing the abuſes in pennie bryddells, and finding the ſaid act to be relative to ane act of Juſtice of Peace made to that effect the 24 of February 1636, does thairfor, ordaine the forſaid act of Synod to be read from all the pulpitts, that none pretend ignorance thairoff, and that the number at ſuch brydles be ſtraitlie vrged to be conforme to the number contained in the act of Juſtice of Peace, extending to 20, and at moſt not exceiding 24; and that the number at contracts and banquetts of this kynd be the juſt halfe heiroff; and that, vnder the paines contained in the ſaid act of Juſtice of Peace: And for getteing of better obedience heirinto, miniſters ar ordained not to contract any parties vntill they obleidge themſelfes to fullfill the premiſſes, and find cautione for that effect; and everie Seſſione is appoynted to have the copie of the above ſpecifiet act of Juſtice of Peace.

This day, compeired Mr. Andro Louthian fornicator, was judiciallie diſcharged from preaching and from any other public exerciſe which befor he might have done as ane expectant; and that for the fornicatione latelie committed by him.

This day, Jonet Jethſeman, being wounditt in ſoule, greived in ſpirit, and ſore preſſed vnder the burden of ane adulterie committed by her nyne yeirs agoe in Cuper, with one Ja. Southerland, compeired of her owne accord, confeſſed the ſame, and offred ſatiſfactione for it, as the onlie meane

to heale her woundes and calme her ſpirit: Shoe is referred vntill the next dyett; and leaſt ſhoe ſhould be ſwallowed upe of ſorrow, Mrs. Walter Greig and William Row ar appoynted to conferre with her, and miniſter ſpirituall comfort to her.

[Mr. John Hall, miniſter at Kilſpindie.]

December 2.—This day, the Preſbyterie appoynted everie brother to deall with ther elders, after a ſpeciall maner, for ſetteing vpe the woorſhippe of God in ther families, and whatſomever elder after dealleing did want the ſame vſuallie, to be depoſed.

December 16.—Catherine Jameſone, in the pariſh of Cults, appoynted to be ſummoned for hir railing from the place of publick repentance.

December 30.—This day, Mr. Andro Louthian compeired befor the Preſbyterie, acknowlegded with teares his great fine; was appoynted to be receaved the next Lords day in the kirk of Faukland, from the ordinarie place of repentance, be the miniſter ther.

January 13, 1648.—The report from the ſeverall Seſſiones anent the number of copies of the Directiones for Familie woorſhippe they would take for the uſe of ther pariſhes, was as followes: Cuper reported they would take ane 100, Darfie 20, Cults 16, Faukland 50, Auchtermuchtie 20, Dunbug 10, Creich 20, Fliſk 10, Logie 16, Moonfie 8, Monymaill 20, Culleſſie 30.

Catharine Jameſone appoynted to ſitt one day in ſackcloth for her former miſbehaviour.

This day, the Preſbyterie ordained everie brother who had not a competent ſtipend to uſe all legall meanes for helpeing thairoff.

January 27.—This day, the Preſbyterie ordained that all young ſtudents who waittes on noblemen or gentlemen within thir bounds, aither to teach ther children or catechiſe and pray in ther families, to frequent the Preſbyterie, that the brether may cognoſce what they ar reading, and what proficiencie they make in ther ſtudies, and to know alſo ther behaviour in the ſaid families, and of ther affectione to the Covenant and preſent religione.

March 2.—The overture anent receaveing of complaints, that is, if bills or complaints be preſented to the Preſbyterie, and be not in ſuch

grave, ſober, and plaine termes, without affectatione, and without imitatione of that libertie in libelling any thing vſed befor civill judicatories; and if they be not ſuch as doeth altogether beſeeme eccleſiaſtick judicatories, the Preſbyterie ordaines all ſuch in all tyme comeing to be rejected and nowayes receaved.

[Mr. Henrie Smith, miniſter at Beath.]

March 9.—This day, Mr. Laurence Olyphant gave in his compts of the receipts of that money collected for the diſtreſſed people of Argyll, within the bounds of the Preſbyterie, with ane diſcharge from Sir James Stewart of the ſame; which being compared with the former compt was found to agrie with the ſame, and thairfor appointed to be inſert in the Preſbyteries books; the tenour wheroff followes, videlicet:—

I, James Stewart, merchant, of Edinburgh, grauntis me to have ressavit from Mr. Laurence Olyphant, minister of Newburgh, in the Presbyterie of Cuper, the sowme of sex hundreth fourscoir and fourtene libs. as the collectione above specifeit for the distressed people of Argyll, quheroff I dischairge the said Mr. Laurence in name of the said Presbyterie, by wertue of ane warrant of the Generall Assembly ordaineing me to receave the severall contributiones: Witness my hand at Edinburgh the 19 of Feb. 1648.

J. STEWART.

Mr. Alexander Balfour, this day, aſked reſolutione of the brether in thes particulairs, wiz. Whether deacons ſhould have ane deciſive voyce in Seſſiones equall with elders or not? 2dlie, Whether heritores, formerlie elders, but not reſidentaries in the pariſh, if vpone occaſione they come to the Seſſione, may have equall woyce with reſidentarie elders? 3dlie, Whether a child brocht foorth in the beginning of the ſeventh [moneth] may live, and whether the parents of that child ſhould be puniſhed as fornicatores, it being immediately after ther marrage? The brether referes the anſer to thes vntill the next day.

March 16.—The brether, conſidering the ſeverall proviſiones of Miniſters within ther bounds, and finding many not ſufficientlie provided, did require them all, and moſt particulairlie Mr. Walter Greig, to vſe all lawfull and ordinarie diligence to gett ther proviſiones helped; and Mr. Walter Greig was peremptorilie appoynted to vſe diligence for that effect, becaus formerlie he could not gett it done becaus of the malice and

might of Biſhopes againſt him, which the brether conceives ſhould be ane motive to the Lords of plantatione now to ſie him both the better provyded, and the mor ſpeedilie diſpatched.

March 23.—The brether takeing to ther conſideratione the ſupplicatione preſented to them this day be Effie Wichtoune, together with her preſent eſtate and conditione, and the conditione of the child latelie brocht foorth by her in fornicatione with Mungo Duddingſtone and Mr. Henrie Cuper, how that they ar both lyke to periſh by famine, becaus none of the forſaid young men will owne the child, or doe the duetie of a parent therinto. And the Preſbyterie alſo finding the ſaid matter, to wit, which of thes tuo ſhould be father into that child, had not yet beene concluditt nor determined by any competent court be a judge competent, that both thes tuo ſall joyntlie contribute for the child's maintenance, and that vnder the paine of being lyable till further cenſures of the Kirk.

March 30.—This day, the Moderatour earneſtlie recommenditt to the brether that they would be carefull to choiſe the ableſt and beſt affected elders for waitteing on the Preſbyterie the next half yeir.

April 13.—Thomas Owne and James Owne in Logie, being formerlie ſummond, wer called, and compeireing, confeſſed werie groſſe and ſcandalous drunkennes and breach of Sabboth, wer appoynted to ſatiſfie for the ſame in the thrie Kirks of Logie, Kilmanie, and Balmerinoch, and that from the publick place of repentance, and the ſaid Thomas to be in ſackcloth; and that it be intimate in all the thrie Kirks vnto them, that they ſalbe excommunicate if they continue in the forſaid faults and not amend; and that they pay ther penaltie to the Seſſione of Logie, wherinto they ar preſentlie remitted for receaving ther injunctiones.

April 27.—This day, the Moderatour enquired everie brother anent the repreſſeing of drunkennes, ſweareing, and the profanatione of the Lords day in ther ſeverall pariſhes; all the brether promiſed to ſie to the repreſſeing of the forſaid vices.

[Mr. James Gilleſpie, miniſter at Rind.]

This day, Mr. Andro Louthian preſented ane humble ſupplicatione to the Preſbyterie, deſireing that his mouth might be opened againe. The brether, willing to know his carriagde ſince the declaratione of his re-

pentance, defired Mr. William Levingftoune to afke the Seffione of Faukland thairanent, and to report.

This day, the Moderatour enquired the brethren and ruleing elders, if the Declaratione had been read by everie minifter, and if any did put wrong gloffes thairupon, and if any of the people did remove from heareing it read; and in all the præmiffes nothing was found contrair to the Act of the Commiffione of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. Andro Bennett declaired, that he had receaved tuo thoufand merkis, left by Mr. Alexander Henderfone[1] to the fchoole of Creich; afked adwice how it might be beft fecured: The brether defired him to adwife with the Shereff-clerk thairanent vntill the next day.

May 11.—The brether, this day, appoynted Mr. John Ramfay to defire the brether of Kirkcaldie, and Mr. David Raitt, with Creich, to defire the brether of St. Andros, to meitt with them Twefday forfaid, for mutuall adwice and concurrence in thir difficill tymes. Mr. John Ramfay was alfo to feik and crave the adwice of the Commiffione of the Kirk for minifters better directione in the faid tymes, and to returne againft the day of ther firft meitteing.

May 16.—The quhilk day, the brethren being mett with the brethren of other Prefbyteries, according to the former appoyntement, they did receave ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, which was directed to all the four Prefbyteries within the province; wherby the faid Commiffione did require everie minifter to keipe himfelfe frie from giveing adwice, affent, or countenance to this prefent Levie; as alfo, that no Prefbyterie fhould fend any of ther number along therwith: Wherinto all the brether did particulairlie affent.

This day, the brethren of Cuper, with the adwice of the brether from other Prefbyteries, did condefcend and ordaine that fupplicationes from feverall Prefbyteries, Vniverfities, and Burghes, fhould be provided, to be prefented to the Committie of warre in the fhire, which was to hold Thurfeday next; and that the feverall Prefbyteries fhould meitt apart for that

[1] Mr. Henderson was Minister of Leuchars, and afterwards of Edinburgh. This money, left to his native parish, was "for mantenance of ane Scoole in the Towne of Lithrie, within the parish of Creich." (Aiton's Life of Henderson, p. 663.) He died in August 1646.

effect, the other thrie on Weddenſeday, and this Preſbyterie of Couper on Thurſeday next in the ordinarie place of meitteing.

It was alſo appoynted, by this meitteing, that correſpondence ſhould be keiped with brether of other ſhires.

It was recommenditt, be this preſent meitteing, to the ſeverall Preſbyteries, that they ſhould enquire of everie brother abſent from this meitteing the reaſones of his abſence, and to cenſure them if the ſame be not found relevant; as alſo, to require ther aſſent and approbatione of the inſtructiones of the Kirk, formerlie mentioned.

This day, 40 copies of the Short Informatione wer receaved be the Preſbyterie, at 8 pennies the peice.

May 25.—Miniſters ar required to deall with ther pariſhioners not to goe on in the Proteſtatione taken be Craufurd againes the ſupplicationes of the ſeverall Preſbyteries.

The Preſbyterie doeth appoynt ther ſupplicatione to be inſert in all ther Seſſiones books, and that everie Seſſione might give ther approbatione therinto.

June 1.—This day, the brether wer deſired to try if they could bring in a copie of the Proteſtatione forſaid, that they may the mor warrantablie proceid againſt the ſubſcribers thairoff.

June 8.—Chriſtiane Barclay and Catharine Smyth compeired this day; and Chriſtane Barclay complained on the ſaid Catharine Smyth that ſhoe had ſtriken her within the kirk, quhill ſhoe was on her knees praying. The quhilk complaint the brether finding to be of truth, or at leaſt finding the ſaid Catharine to have miſcarried werie farre in the kirk to the ſaid Chriſtiane, did ordaine Catharine forſaid to ſatiſfie for the ſame befor the pulpitt of Creich the next Sabboth.

June 15.—This day, was preſented to the brethren ane Act of the Commiſſione of the Kirk, which being read and approven be all, was ordained to be inſert and regiſtrat in the Preſbyterie book; the tenour wheroff followes:—

Edinburgh the 5 of June 1648.—The Commissione of the Generall Assembly recommends seriouslie to Presbyteries to take speciall notice and tryall of every brotheris carriagde in the publict busines. That iff any be found who doe not declair themselfes againest the present

Ingagement, nor joyne with ther brethren in ther common Resolutiones against it, nor give publict informatione to the people off the Vnlawfulnes of it, they may be referred to the next Generall Assemblie; and if any of them have alreadie declaired themselfes for it, that they be presentlie censured.

Sic subscribitur, MR. ANDRO KER.

Four copies of Mr. Zacharie Boyd his Pſalmes wer delyvered this day to the Preſbyterie, to be adwiſed with vntill the next General Aſſembly.

June 22.—This day, ane letter from the Commiſſione of the Kirk, with the Cauſes of the Faſt to be holden the laſt Thurſeday of June and firſt Sabboth of July, wer delyvered into the Preſbyterie; which Cauſes wer appoynted to be regiſtrate in the Preſbyterie book; the tenour whereof followes:—

1. Wee ar to mourne for all the sines and provocationes mentioned in the Causes of our former humiliatione, quhilk doe continue and abound notwithstanding of all our obligationes to reforme our wayes, and many former solemne professiones of repentance, and of all the sharpe rods wherwith God corrects us, and heavie jugdementis quherwith he now threatenes us.

2. Wee ar in speciall way to be humbled for the countenance that hath beine given, and compliancie that hath beene made, by too many with Malignants and persones disaffected to the worke of reformatione, which, in the just jugdement of God, at last hes put such power and strenth in ther hands as is terrible to the people of God, and threatens his worke with ruine.

3. Wee ar to bewaille the small proficiencie wnder the preaching of many, the great contempt of the Gospell in others, and the great hardnes of heart and obstinacie in some, not only into the despiseing and reproacheing of the ministrie, but to the rejecteing of the most powerfull word of exhortatione in the mouthe of his servands.

4. Wee ar to be humbled for the greivous backslyding that is amongs us, which hath prevailed to the vndertakeing of ane vnlawfull Ingagdement, notwithstanding of many petitiones from Burghs, Shyres, Presbyteries and Synods to the contrarie; which vndertakeing, besyd many sad effects amongst ourselves, is lyke to rent in sunder the vnion betwixt the kingdomes, and not only obstruct the progresse of the worke of reformatione, but overturne the fundationes alreadie laid.

5. Wee ar to lament befor the Lord the oppressione of his people in many places of this kingdome, vnto the spoyling of ther goods, offering violence to ther persones, and forceing of ther consciences, by causeing ather to endure great afflictione, or to sine against God by being accessorie to a sinful course.

6. Wee ar deeplie to be humbled that the Parliament now risen, they have beine so farre from satisfieing the just and necessar desires of the Kirke, or to the Petitiones presented into them, that they have enjoyned obedience to all thair ordours vpon the grounds of ther Declaratione in Aprill.

7. Wee ar to intreat the Lord in behalfe of our King, that he may be convinced and repent of the evillis of his former wayes, and may be inclined to the love and approbatione of the work of God: And in behalfe of thes who have power of the kingdome in ther hands, that they may desist from everie sinfull course, and satisfie the just and necessar desires of the Kirke, and consciences of the weill affected in the land, by secureing religione, and preserveing the vnion betuixt the tuo kingdomes and monarchicall governement in the persone of the King and of his posteritie.

8. Wee ar to begge of God that all the purposes, both of Sectaries and of the Popish prelaticall and malignant partie in all the thrie kingdomes, againest the truth and worke of God, may be disappoynted, and ther power crushed. So also that the Lord would strenthen his people in all these dominions to adhear, without shrinkeing or fainteing, to the cause of God, and bear a faithfull testimonie thairto in the day of tentatione.

9. Lastlie, wee ar to pray for a blissing vpon the ensueing Generall Assemblie, that they may meitt in peace and love, and, being furnished with the spirit of vnitie and faithfulnes, wisdome and zeall, they may so carie themselfes in everie thing as that the hopes and designes of disaffected men may be disappoynted, truth may be preserved, holynes promoved amongst ourselfes, and the worke of vniformitie advanced among our neighboures.

The League and Covenant was this day appoynted to be read be everie brother the firſt day of the faſt, to the people, and ther diligence herein to be enquyred the next dyett.

This day, the brether wer defired to require ther people to delay the mercatt of Auchtermuchtie, which was to fall the day following the faſt, vntill the Tweſday thairafter.

Auguſt 24.—This day was prefented a letter from the Commiſſione of the Kirke, wherby they require everie brother to advertiſe ther people that they be not taken with thes Obſervationes emitted be the Eſtaittes vpon the Generall Aſſemblie ther Declaratione, vntill ther anſers ſhould come forth into them. All the brether promiſed to doe as it was required.

Thomas Duncane in Sires, haveing complained to that Seſſione on Henry Anderſone, that the ſaid Henrie had ſaid that Thomas forſaid had lyen with this Henrie his wyffe; and the Seſſione haveing defired the adwice of Preſbyterie therintill, the Preſbyterie did ordaine the ſaid Henrie to make declaratione of his repentance in ſackcloth for his ordinarie drunkennes, and for ſlandering of his wyffe, haveing vpon tryall found the whole matter to be but ſlaunder.

Auguſt 31.—*Mr. John Ramſay and Mr. Wm. Livingſtone ſent to Bruntiland.*—This day, Mr. John Ramſay and Mr. William Levingſtoune wer directed from the Preſbyterie to Bruntiland, ther to deall with the meitteing of Burrowes, that ſome courſe might be taken be them for preventeing any further effuſione of innocent blood.

September 14.—The Preſbyterie did deſire Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. David Dalgleiſh to goe to the Committie, and in name of the brether, offer ther aſſiſtance and beſt concurrence for furthering and advanceing heir the work of God in this day of Jacobs trouble, and to exhorte them to ſtedfaſtnes.

September 21.—The quhilk day ther was no exerciſe, be reaſone the Preſbyterie was laitt in conveineing, becauſe of thir preſent feares and troubles.

October 12.—Reference anent ane expectant, who haveing fallen in fornicatione, and haveing contracted the partie with whom he fell, refuſes to performe the marriagde, notwithſtanding the woman allegdes promiſe vpon oath; which ſhe, being deſired to purſue befor the jugde competent, has never yet purſued: How the Preſbyterie ſall proceid in the ſaid matter?

October 18.—The Aſſembly ordenes the haill miniſters and ruling elders of the Preſbyterie of Couper to meitt at the kirk of Darſie, with Mrs. Patrik Scougall, James Bruce, and Andrew Honnyman, miniſters, with the Laird of Creich and Kingcraig, ruling elders, for removeing of the monuments of idolatry and ſuperſtitioun in the ſaid kirk of Darſie; and cognoſcing the haill fabrick theirof. And the meiting to be wpon Mononday nixt the 23d of this inſtant. And the Miniſter to mak intimatioun theirof wpon Sonday nixt to the heritors and elders to be preſent for that effect. [1]

[1] The meeting was accordingly held at Darsie, but the minute is totally silent as to these monuments of idolatry, it being exclusively devoted to the erection and division of seats in the church. But, fortunately, the *Synod Record* informs us, "That at the entrie of sindrie deskis, upon the platforme, and above the great west doore, there are crosiar staffes, in some part alon, and in other as a aditament and cognisance of the last pretended Bischops armes, not being any signe or cognisance ordinarie and commune in that name or familie, bot meirlie a signe of

November 2.—This day, Mr. George Thomſon declared, that Mr. David Kynneir in face of their Seſſioun declared that he had ſubſcryved the Proteſtatioun againſt the Supplicatioun, and that he rewed nothing of the doing of it; and if it were to doe, he would doe it over againe: to which he added (after ſome interruption) out of the intention he had done it, which, (as he affirmed) was for the glory of God, the good of the Kirk, and the releiſe of his Prince. Wherupon the Preſbyterie advyſed that the ſaid Mr. David ſhould be proceſſed be the Seſſioun of Kilmany, and be ſuſpendit from being ane elder.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. George Thomſone declares that Mr. David Kynneir, being called befor the Seſſioun of Kilmany, did declare that he was ſory that he had ſpoken any thing that did give offence; and that the purpoſe of his ſpeach was not to juſtifie his actione, but only his intention in reſpect of the action; ſubmitting to the judgement of the Kirk: wherfor, furder proceſſe againſt him is delayed till the Act of the Commiſſione of the Kirk be ſein.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a roll of the names of theſe that had fied ſhearers on the Sabbath day in Abernethie, September 17 and 24. It is ordeined that they be proceſſed and cenſured in their ſeverall Seſſiouns.

December 7.—This day, a letter is produced from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, together with the copies of the League and Covenant, and the ſolemne acknowledgement, and the Act of the Generall Aſſemblie for renewing of the Covenant; together with the act for debarring from the Covenant and Communion; together with anſwers to the Committies Obſervations wpon the Aſſemblies Declaratione. In obedience to the whilk lettre, the Preſbyterie reſolued as followes. The Preſbyterie, conſidering the papers now at laſt come to ther hands (although ſtraitned

his degrie hierarchicall, according to the maner and forme used among the Romane hierarchists, and others following them:" and that there is "a glorious partition wall, with a degrie ascending thereto, dividing the bodie of the kirk fra there queir (as it is ordinarlie called in papistrie, and among them that follow papists); and above the great doore of their queir, so called, the armes of Scotland and England quartered, with divers crosses about and beside them, are set up." All these were ordered to be removed by the Synod as being superstitious.

with tyme) yet reſolving to uſe all poſſible diligence to joyne with the reſt of the Kirk in renewing of the ſolemne League and Covenant at the tyme apointed by the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, have apointed that on Sunday nixt, after ſermon in the foirnoon, the Acts reſpective of the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, with the explanation be publickly red, together with the ſolemne acknowledgement of publick ſinnes; That the faſt be intimat on the ſaid day to be obſerved on Thureſday nixt, and the Saboth following, and the Covenant to be renewed that day according to the order preſcryved; And that all the congregatioun be requyred to dilate to the Seſſioun (to be keiped that day) any whom they know to come vnder the compaſſe of the acts of being debarred from the Covenant and communion; And that ewerie miniſter enquyre particularly in the Seſſioun that day, and tak up a liſt of theſe that come wnder the compaſſe of the forſaid acts; and to cauſe ſummond the ſaidis perſones to the Preſbyterie, to be keiped wpon Monday nixt for that purpoſe, that their it may be cleired who ar to be debarred, and who not; and if any being ſummond doe not compeir, it is ordeined that their proceſſes ly over till after the renewing of the Covenant, and that they be debarred in the meantyme: Alſo, it is appointed, that the information of the preſent condition of affaires, and declaration concerning preſent dueties from the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſemblie to the Kirk and Kingdome be publikly red wpon the Thureſday of the faſt, after the foirnoons ſermon before the bleſſing: Alſo, if any being dilated cannot be gotten ſummond perſonally, being from home, it is apointed, that they be delayed till afterwards.

December 11.—The whilk day, the brethren meiting according to the apointment of the former day, after incalling of the name of God, did proceid againſt delinquents in the mater of the vnlawfull Engadgement, as followes:—

Firſt, dilated by the Seſſioun of Couper, as having charge in the engadgement, Andrew Paterſone lievetennent, David Johnſton younger, quartermaſter, Captain Robert Whyt.

Andrew Paterſone and David Johneſon called, compeireing, and found to have had charge in that vnlawfull Engadgement, ar ſuſpendit from the

Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Aſſembly, according to the act of the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, and their ſuſpenſion to be publikly intimat.

Capitan Whyt is found to be priſoner in Ingland.

Dilated alſo, by the Seſſioun of Couper, for ſubſcryving the Proteſtatioun entered in the Committy of the ſhyre againſt the ſupplicationes of the Preſbyteries reſpective within the ſhyre to the Parliament, Sir James Balfour, Alexander Inglis, Gilbert Paterſone, Mr. Patrick Glaſſurd.

Sir James Balfour called, compeires, and confeſſes he had ſubſcryved the foirſaid Proteſtatioun, and declares that he was ſory he had done ſo; and that he is willing to teſtify his diſallowance of it, and to declare his repentance for it, any way the Preſbyterie ſhall think fitt, and earneſtly deſires that he may be received to the Covenant. Wherupon the Preſbyterie, finding by the teſtimony of ſeverall brethren that he had not bein malignant or diſaffectionat to the Covenant and cauſe of God, before the vnlawfull Engadgement; but, on the contrair, had done and ſuffered for it, ordeines, that he ſubſcryving the paper, (the tenor quherof followes:—" Wheras ane Proteſtatioun was entered before the Committy of warre of the ſhyre of Fyffe, bearing a direct oppoſitioun therwnto, and ane urging of the advancement of the vnlawfull Engadgement, whilk Proteſtatioun being preſented to us wnder ſubſcryvers, we did ſubſcryve it; for whilk we ar heartily ſory, and doe profeſſe we doe think that Engadgement to be vnlawfull, and, if we had the paper, wold willingly rend our names theirfrom: whilk we declare as in the ſight of God by our ſubſcriptiones;") and declaring his repentance publikly befor the congregation, coming out of his owne ſeat, and promyſing more circumſpect walking (in reſpect of the Covenant in all tyme comming) ſhalbe admittit to the renewing of the Covenant. Wherupon he being called, and the ſaid ordinance intimat to him, he willingly ſubmitts to it, and preſentlie ſubſcryves the foirſaid paper in face of the Preſbyterie, and promyſes to obey the reſt of the order.

The magiſtrats, counſellors, and gentlemen, in the paroche of Couper who did put foorth men in the ſaid vnlawfull Engadgement, being called, compeirs, and declares that they did put out thoſe men againſt their will, being threatned with plowndering and quartering; and that they werre

ſory they had done ſo, and willing to declare the ſame any way the Preſbyterie ſhould think fitt: Wherwpon the Preſbyterie, (knowing the good affection of the ſaid magiſtrats, cownſellors, and gentlemen to the Covenant and cauſe of God, and that they had never formerly bein found in any thing to be malignant,) ordeines, that they, declaring publikly before the congregation, ſtanding up in their owne ſeatts, and inclyning their body, their diſallowance of the ſaid Engadgement, and that they werre ſory they had any wayes concurred in it, ſhalbe received into the Covenant. Whilk being intimat to them, they willingly ſubmitt to it, and promyſes to obey the ſaid ordinance.[1]

The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig craves advyce of the brethren anent a woman who had confeſſed hir ſelfe to be a witch. The Preſbyterie, not having tyme to think upon that mater, delayes it till the nixt day.

December 31.—Mr. John Dury, miniſter at Logy, delated Johne Hall for refuiſing to ſwear and ſubſcryve the Covenant, who, going forth in the tyme of the reiding of it, is therfor apointed to be ſummond againſt the nixt day.

It is apointed, that it be tryed in ewerie paroche, who werre abſent at the tyme of the renewing of the Covenant, and for what reaſon; and that theſe who werre neceſſarly abſent, and ar deſirous to ſwear the ſame, be admittit to ſweare before the Seſſioun, and that others be ſpecialy taken notice of.

Concerning Helen Young, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, who had confeſſed hir ſelf to be a witch, it is apointed, that Mrs. Johne Makgill elder and younger, Andrew Bennett, James Wedderburne, George Thomſon, ſhall meitt with Mr. Walter Greig on Monday nixt, and ſpeak with the ſaid Helen Young, and report to the Preſbyterie what they find the nixt day.

January 4, 1649.—The whilk day, diverſe of the brethren enquyring what courſe ſhould be taken with theſe who refuiſed to ſweare, or having ſworne, did delay to put their hands to the Covenant. The Preſbyterie thinks it meet to deall particularly with them, and deſires Mr. Johne Mak-

[1] A great many other gentlemen and common people were, upon this occasion, delated by the different Sessions of similar offences, and received the like sentences.

gill younger, to repair to the Commiſſioun of the Kirk the nixt week, and to try their what courſe is thought meitt to be taken with theſe who refuiſe to ſweare, or put their hand to the Covenant.

The whilk day, the brethren, apointed to joyne with Mr. Walter Greig in dealing with Helen Young, reports that ſtill ſhe confeſſes hir ſelfe to be a witch; but that when ſhe is poſed wpon particulars ſhe ſeems to them either to diſſemble, or els to be diſtracted. But becauſe ſhe ſpak ſomething reflexing wpon Helen Small and Elſpet Seith, the brethren think it meitt to goe on in the examination of Helen Small and Elſpet Seith; and in the mean tyme recommends to Mr. Walter Greig to deall with Helen Young, to try what can be had againſt Helen Small and Elſpet Seith, in their Seſſioun, againſt the nixt day.

Mr. David Orme declares, that Helen Small was ſummond, and that he had found in their Seſſioun, that ſhe had bein for a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witchcraft; and that ſhe had bein proceſſed in their Seſſioun for the ſame in the yeir of God I^{m}VI^{c} fowrtie-fowr; and that ſome of their Seſſioun had now deponed againſt hir as followes:—

At Monimell, the last of December, 1648.—Whilk day, after incalling the name of God, the Minister declared to the Sessioun, that Helen Young, in the parishe of Balmirrinoch, had spoken something reflexing wpon Helen Small about maters of witchcraft, and that he was apointed to desyre the Sessioun to try if they would give any information against the said Helen Small.

January 7, 1649.—The whilk day, it is declared that, beside the scandal concerning William Balingall his death, for which the said Helen was procest, she was of a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witchcraft. Item, it is alledged against hir, that she sent with Alexander Allan in Lethem, a stoup full of harme to Bessie Swans spous Thomas Mackassie, to be given him to drink whil he was sicke, after which the said Thomas died. Item, that Alexander Arthur in Kumoquhy his wyfe, having flittin with the said Helen, fell sicke, and afterward, reproveing the said Helen, his kow died, and immediatly his wyfe recovered. It is further declared, that on a day Johne Skirling in Caldcoats, ryding towards Leathem, and meet the said Helen, who was hard say, "Saw yee ever such a long-legged man as this?" After which the said Johne fell sicke and dwyned about whil he died. The Sessioun, taking these delationes to their consideration, ordeines Helen Small, Bessie Swan, Alexander Allan, Margaret Young, Margaret Webster, to be summond against the nixt day for tryell of the præmisses.

January 14.—Whilk day, Helen Small being called, compeired, and being questioned concerning the barme, did confesse that she, being in Jonet Wats house, the said Jonet requysted

hir to cause Margaret Young send a soup barme to hir to bake with, and that she had gotten the same, and desyred the said Alexander Allan to cary it to the said Jonet Watt. Being questioned concerning Alexander Arthurs kow, and his wyffes sicknesse, denyed she knew any thing therof but by report. Lykewyse, being questioned concerning Johne Skirlings long legs, denyed the same.

Bessie Swan called, compeired, and being questioned concerning the barme which Alexander Allan broght to hir from Helen Small, declared that Alexander Allan broght ane stoup full of barme to hir, which the said Helen Small had sent hir, whilk she did cast in the milne burne.

Alexander Allan called, compeired, declared that the said Helen Small did send the barme with him to the said Bessie Swan.

Margaret Young declares, that Helen Small did seike barme from hir to be sent to Jonet Watt in Monimell, which she desyred Alexander Allan to [take to] the said Jonet, and not to Bessie Swan; and being posed, if Helen Small had spoken to hir concerning the barme before she came to the Sessioun? answered, she had.

Margaret Wobster in Kinoquhy, called, compeired, and being questioned, if after she had flitten with Helen Small, that she fell sicke, and whither or not the said Helen being reproved by hir housband, Alexander Arthur, their kow died and she amend? Answered, that indeed after hir flytting with the said Helen she fell sicke, whilk she tooke from the hand of God; and that she knew not that hir housband did reprove the said Helen, and that their kow died when she was sicke, and that after the deathe of the kow she amended, whilk she acknowledged lykewyse to come from God. And being questioned, whither she hard the said Helen say, when their kow was dead, "I thank God I have gotten my hearts sythe now?" denyed that she heard the said Helen speake the same, but that she heard others clavering the same, wherof she took no notice.

Agnes Wobster called, compeired, and being questioned, whither or not she knew any thing concerning Helen Small hir speach anent hir goodman his long legges? Answered, she knew nothing of it, but only heard a flying report, and that hir housband was long sicke and afterward died; whilk they both tooke from the Lords hand.

This day, James Webster declared that the said Helen Small had promysed to doe him ane evill turne; whilk the said Helen denyed, being posed thairanent. The said Helen is summoned *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day. James Wobster is apointed to prove the same, and to advertise the minister that the witnesses may be summond (when he hes gotten their names) against the nixt day.

January 21.—Whilk day, James Wobster being questioned, whither or not he had found any light concerning that speach of Helen Smalls? Answered, that he had gotten none as yit. The Sessioun apointed the said James to use further diligence, and to acquaint the minister.

January 28.—The whilk day, James Wobster declared he had gotten no further light as yit. The Sessioun ordeins him *ut supra*.

Extract out of the Sessioun Book of Monimell.

The ſaid Helen Small compeirs, and being poſed by the Moderator, if ſhe knew that ſhe had bein a long tyme bygone ſuſpect and ſlandered for a witch? ſhe, after ſome ſhifting anſweres, confeſſed that ſhe did know it. Being enquyred, why ſhe was not carefull to be purged of that ſlander? ſhe anſwered, that ſhe could not ſtope their mouthes, and God would reward them. Being enquyred anent the particulars alledged againſt hir in the Seſſioun of Monimell, ſhe denyed all. Wherfor it is recommended to Mr. David Orme to examine the particulars more narrowly. Concerning James Birtlitt, ſhe confeſſes that ſhe being ſent for, went to him; but that it was to gitt a band of 100 merkis which he had of hirs; which, notwithſtanding, ſhe got not. She denyes that ſhe applyed anything at all to him. It is recommended to the Seſſiouns of Balmirrinoch and Monimell to try more particularly concerning hir againſt the nixt day, and ſhe is ſummond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day.

January 18.—Mr. Walter Greig declares to the Preſbyterie the death of Helen Young by ſickneſſe, who had before confeſſed hir ſelf to be a witch. Helen Small and Elſpet Seith compeiring, and maters concerning them not being ſufficiently cleired from the Seſſiouns of Monemell and Balmirrinoch, they ar apointed to compeir when the miniſters ſhall advertiſe them.

February 1.—Mr. Walter Greig returning from the Commiſſione of the Kirk, delivered a lettre to the Preſbyterie from the ſaid Commiſſioun, dated January 15, the tenor wherof followes:—

RIGHT REVEREND,

WHERAS we have bein informed that diverse Presbyteries have bein negligent, and too suddaine in the admitting to the renewing of the League and Covenant persones that ar disaffected, and to whom the favour granted in the explanation of the Act of Commission doth not belong, and the many applicationes ar still made to Presbyteries by Malignants, and men that have bein dieply involved in that late Engadgement, to be readmitted to the Covenant: Therfore, we have thought it necessary to warne yow that yee be very circumspect, and tak good heid whom yow admitt to the Covenant, that so the cause of God suffer no prejudice by your joyneing with the Enemies therof. And for this cause wee desyre that the tryall of such, according to the rules and directiones wee have formerly given, may bee by your selues, and no by your Sessiones; and that yow cause registrate your whole proceidings in every one of your Books. And wher any questionable causes come before yow concerning the admitting of per-

sones to the Covenant, yow shall referre them hither, and apoint the persones who importune yow for that favour to mak their addresses wnto us. And wee cannot conceale from you, if any persone or persones be admittit to renew the Covenant who ar not allowat by our Act and explanation, by the gryt trust committed wnto us, we wilbe necessitated to proceid against such, and to take notice of the Presbyteries proceidings in applying the Act apointed by us to regulate the admitting of persones in the renewing of the Covenant. Yow ar lykewyse heirby desyred to hasten in that report of your diligence, with the list of the persones debarred from the Covenant within the severall churches in yowr bounds. And, so committing yow to the Lords speciall directione, wee remaine.

Which the Prefbyterie, taken to their confideration, refolved carefully to obey. Alfo they received ane other lettre of the fame daitt, the tenor whereof followes :—

RIGHT REVEREND,

Yow shall receive three copies of the new paraphrase of the Psalms, at a mark the peice, which yow wilbe pleased to peruse carefuly ; and that yow would amend any fault yow find in them, and send in yowr correctiones to ws with diligence ; for tis not eneugh to find out faults, except yow also set down your own assay correcting the same. Receive also heirwith nyntein Acts of the Assembly at a mark the peice. There ar sent wnto [yow] the Explanationes of our former Act, concerning our debarring of persones from the Covenant, price of the peice of them is six pennies. We must entreat yow to send in the prices of these papers yow have gotten now and formerly with all diligence, that the printer may be payed. Receive also nyntein copies of the Testimonie of this Church against the proceidings of the Sectaries, etc. price of peece 2s. As also, that yee will not faile to send in what is due of the twentie shillings for this and bygon yeeres. We expect yowr diligence heirin, and the report therof; and so we remaine.

In obedience wherto they did delyver one of the copies of the paraphrafe of the Pfalmes to Mr. David Dalgleifhe, another to Mr. David Orme, and the thrid to Mr. Walter Greig, apointing them to perufe the fame, and having perufed the fame, to delyver them to other brethren to be perufed lykwyfe by them, that the report may be given in according to the defyre of the Affembly.[1]

Another letter alfo was delyvered to the Prefbyterie by Mr. Walter Greig ; the tenor wherof followes :—

[1] This was the version by Francis Rous, which was afterwards sanctioned by the General Assembly, and is still used in the Scottish Church.

REVEREND BRETHREN,

ALBEIT, we have long expected from yow ane accompt of yowr diligence concerning the provision and other particulars relating vnto the severall Kirks within yowr bounds, according to the Act of the Generall Assembly in the year 1647, yet we have hitherto receaved no satisfaction from yow heirin. And conceiwing yowr negligence in this to have bein very prejudiciall to the setling of yowr severall Kirks, and that a perfect accompt of these things would contribute very much for furthering of the same, therfore, we doe now desyre yow, as yee would not wish the blame to ly vpon yow any longer, to tak pains for setting down the names of all the paroches within yowr bounds, with declaration which of them have ministers, which not; what is the largenesse of the bownds; commodious or incommodious situation of each particular paroche kirk; what is the number of communicants; what kirks ar wnder patrons, what not; who ar the severall patrons; what is the nature and quantity of the present provision, or possible grownd of further provision, or competent mantenance, where the same is not sufficiently provyded already. As also what paroches ar vnited, or disvnited, or bettered already; and in what measure by the said Commissioun. And that this may not be delayed or slichted, we trust that yow will immediatly after the sight heirof, to name one of yowr number to tak paines heirin, and that yow wilbe carefull to give vnto him yowr best concurrence and assistance for cleiring of these particulars to yowr severall kirks. Wee will expect a perfect accompt of all these things against the nixt meiting of the Commissioun on February, or as soon therafter as possibly can be. Wee think we shall neid to say no more in a bussinesse tending so much to yowr owne advantage, and to the good and setling of all the kirks within the kingdome, but commends yow to the grace of God, and continowes.

Wee pray yow be carefull that none of the particulars in the Act of Assembly, and sit down in our lettre, be omitted concerning any of yowr Kirks. It is very lyke that these who shall first report their diligence in these particulars shalbe first taken in consideration by the Commissioun of Plantation of Kirks.

In obedience wherto, Mr. Andrew Bennett was apointed to receive from ewerie brother ane information anent the ſtate and condition of their ſtipend and paroche, according to the deſyre of the lettre; which ewerie brother was apointed to bring in to him againſt the nixt day, that he might prepare the ſame with all expedition to be ſent over to the Commiſſioun of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth the proceſſe of the Seſſioun of Monemell againſt Helen Small, ſuſpect of witchcraft; which, becauſe it is found yet not to be cleired in ewerie particular, it is referred back againe to the ſaid Seſſioun for further cleiring. And Helen Small called, com-

peirs, and is apointed to come to the Preſbyterie when Mr. David Orme ſhowld advertiſe hir.

February 15.—Mr. Walter Greig craving advyce, what puniſhment is to be inflicted wpon a woman who had ſatt down wpon hir knees and curſed hir neighbour? It is thoght meit, that ſhe ſhall declare hir repentance publikly before the Congregation.

Mr. Andrew Lawthian, produceing to the Preſbyterie his abſolvitor before the Commiſſars of Edenburgh, concerning his alledged oath of marriage to Elſpet Shaw, and he being deſyrous to give ſatiſfaction in the paroche of Falkland, in reſpect of any ſcandal given by him during the tyme of his abode their, that he might have a teſtimoniall from thence to any paroche wher it ſhall pleaſe the Lord to give him occaſion to reſide: The Preſbyterie ordeines the ſaid Mr. Andrew Lawthian to compeir befor the pulpit of the kirk of Falkland, vpon ane Saboth before noon, and ther declare his ſorrow and greif for all his offences during his abode in Falkland, and eſpecially for his levity in contracting and quyting againe mariage with hir with whom he had fallin in fornication; and alſo, that throgh any wncircumſpectneſſe of his walking, any of that congregation ſhould have taken any offence at him, as if he had bein given to exceſſive or wntymous drinking; which he hath the more reaſon to be greived for, becauſe having the honor to preach Gods word, amongſt whom he ſhould have bein exemplar for a holy converſation, and crave God and that congregation forgiveneſſe, and promyſe, with the Lords grace, to walk more circumſpectly in all tyme comming.

February 26.—The whilk day, after incalling the name of God, ewerie ſeverall brother being requyred, according to the lettre received from the Commiſſion of the Kirk, to give in in writt the eſtate of the paroche and ſtipend, the ſame was given in by ewerie brother, except be Mr. Johne Ramſay, who had not bein preſent ſeverall dayes before, becauſe of ſickneſſe, and therfor knew not that it ſhould have bein given in that day; and Mrs. Johne Murray and Johne Litlejohne, who werre abſent.

The whilk day, Sir George Morriſon being called, compeirs, and being enquyred anent his judgement of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, he deſyred to apoint ſome two of their number to conferre with him for his

ſatiſfaction in ſomethings wherof he doubted; wherupon the Preſbyterie apointed Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. George Thomſone to ſpeak with him, and delayed his proceſſe till the nixt day.

Capitan Johne Moriſon, in the paroche of Darſy, compeirs, and acknowledges, that he had a patent from the Eirle of Lenrick to levie men in the Weſt cowntry for the ſaid vnlawfull Engadgement, and that he was interrupted by ryſing of the Weſt cowntry after the miſcariage of the ſaid Engadgement: The Preſbyterie ordeines him to be debarred from the Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Aſſembly.

March 8.—Concerning the reference for plantation of Schools, it is apointed, that the nixt day ewery brother repreſent to the Preſbyterie the cace of their paroche in reſpect of a School, that theirafter diligence may be uſed for planting ſchools wher they ar wanting.

It is recommended to ſeverall brethren to be carefull to intimat in their ſeverall kirks, wpon the Saboths immediatly before Midſommer and Hallowewen, that no fyres to be ſit on wpon theſe nights.

It is yet referred to the enſewing Provinciall, what courſe ſhal be taken with women proceſſed for witchcraft, and not cleired.

Elſpit Seith, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, compeiring, is examined by the Preſbyterie, and ſummond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt day.

March 15.—The whilk day, Andrew Patrik compeiring, and being examined, declared, that in the laſt goeſommer[1] ſave one, as he was comming furth of the Galrey to goe to his owne houſe, betuixt 11 and 12 houres at ewen, as he was in the weſt ſyde of Henry Blak his land, he ſaw 7 or 8 women dancing, with a mekle man in the midſt of them, who did weare[2] towards him, whil they came to a litle loch, in the which they werre putting him, ſo that his armes werre wett to the ſhowlder blaids; and that he knew none of them except Elſpet Seith, whom (as he affirmes) he knew by hir tongue, for he hard hir ſay to the reſt, "He is but a filly druken larde; let him goe." Being enquyred, what he was doing that way ſo late? Anſwered, that he had bein in Johne Rikie his houſe, tailzeor in the Galrey, ſcheaping clothes; and that he had ſent for a quart

[1] The beginning of Autumn. [2] Gradually approach.

aill, and ſtaying whil it was druken, it was late. Being enquyred, whither he went after that fear? Anſwered, he went to his oune houſe, and that he cryed ſo before he came neir his houſe, that they who werre in his houſe opened the doore, and came furth and mett him; and that he went in to his owne houſe with gryt fear all wett. He being queſtioned, why he did not reveile the foirſaid mater preſently theirafter? Anſwered, that wpon the morne he told it to Alexander Kirkaldy.

Andrew Patrik and ſhe being confronted before the Preſbyterie, he affirmes, ſhe denyes.

Helen Swyn, in the paroche of Forgen, compeirs and complains, that Andrew Patrik had raiſed a ſclander wpon hir as being amongſt theſe women whom he had ſein. Andrew Patrik denyes that ewer he had ſpoken of hir. Mr. George Thomſone declares, that wheras the ſaid Helen Swyn had complained in their Seſſion of Kilmany, that Thomas Kynneir, in the ſaid paroche, had ſlandered hir as being in that number, the Seſſioun had called Thomas Kynneir before them; who affirmed, that he heard Andrew Patrik ſay, that he knew not only Elſpit Seith, but alſo Iſobel Troylus and Helen Swyn, amongſt thoſe women whom he ſaw dancing; and that David Arthur, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik his ſonne, was preſent and heard the ſamyn. The Preſbyterie, conſidering all the premiſſes, apoints a meiting wpon Monday the 26 of this inſtant, for trying the foirſaid mater; and ſummonds Andrew Patrik and Elſpet Seith *apud acta* to compeir the ſaid day; and apoints Mr. Walter Greig to cauſe ſummond theſe that werre in Andrew Patrik his houſe that night he came hame wett and feared, (as he alledges.) Alſo, to cauſe ſummond Alexander Kirkaldy, to whom he alledges he told it wpon the morrow. As alſo, to cauſe ſummond Jonet Bell to be tryed in a mater of ſlander concerning Elſpet Seith. Alſo, the Moderator is apointed to writt to Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, to cauſe ſummond Johne Rikie and his wyfe, in the paroche of Forgen, againſt the ſaid day; alſo, to cauſe ſummond Thomas Kynneir, David Arthur, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, in the paroche of Kilmany, againſt the ſaid day, to be tryed in the foirſaid particular.

The brethren being enquyred to give in their diligence concerning the

eſtate of their Schools in their ſeverall paroches; it was found, that the only way to gett Schols fully ſetled, was to viſite the ſeverall congregationes for this effect, which the brethren reſolve and intend to doe with the firſt conveniencie after the firſt Provinciall.

Martij 26.—Andrew Patrik called, compeiring, being enquyred, if he could remember the preceiſe tyme at which he had ſein theſe women, as he had before alledged? Anſwered, that it was the laſt yeir ſave one, in the goeſommer betuixt Michelmes and Mertimes, about what day of the week, or in what week of theſe, he did not particularlie remember. All thinges he anſwered preciſely as he done before, only he added, that after he came out of Johne Reikie his houſe, he ſtayed an houre in his ſonnes houſe.

Johne Rikie called, compeirs, and his oath being taken, he was enquyred, if he did remember that Andrew Patrik was at any tyme late in his houſe? He anſwered, that the laſt yeir ſave one, when he came home from his work, he fand Andrew Patrik waiting wpon him in his ſonnes houſe, and that after he came home he came into his houſe, with cloath to be a pare of breches to Johne Drybro his ſervant and ſiſter ſonne; and that Andrew Patrik ſent for a quart aill in his houſe, and ſtayed their with his ſone ſheaping the breeks and drinking the quart aill whil about 9 or ten houres.

Johne Rikie his wyfe, called, compeirs, and hir oath being taken, ſhe is enquyred anent the foirſaid mater; whoſe depoſition did in all points agrie with the former.

Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs, and being enquyred, his depoſition did in all points agrie with the former.

Margaret Patrik being called, compeirs, and being enquyred, if ewer ſhe remembred that hir father came home to his owne houſe in the night in gryt fear and all wett? Anſwered, that the laſt yeir ſave on in the goeſomer, he came in the night to his owne door crying, and that ſhe being afrayd, roſe, opened the door, and that he came in grytly afrayd, and all wett. Being enquyred, if he told hir what it was that feared him? She anſwered, that he told hir not.

Alexander Kirkaldy being called, Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he

had forgotten that he was apointed to be ſummond, and therefor he was not ſummond; bot both he and George Stirk affirmed, that Alexander Kirkaldy had ſaid in their Seſſioun, that Andrew Patrik had told him that he had gotten a gryt fear by ſeing women in the night, and that about Mertimes laſt ſave one, and withal he ſaid, he thoght not mekle of it at the tyme.

Andrew Patrik called againe, and enquyred, if he knew any other amongſt theſe women but Elſpet Seith? He affirmed, that he knew none other of them. Being enquyred, if he had ſpoken of Iſobel Troylus and Helen Swyn? He denyed that ewer he had ſpoken of them.

Thomas Kynneir, in the paroche of Kilmany, called, compeirs not. His miniſter, Mr. George Thomſone, declares, that he came to him on Saturday after he was ſummond, and declaired to him that he was ſummond to Sanctandros againſt Monday for the ſowme of fyve hundreth merkis, wnder the paine of horning; and that compeiring before the Seſſioun on Sonday, he deponed, that he heard Andrew Patrik ſay, in James Stein his houſe in Kilmany, before David Arthure, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, that he ſaw eight or nyne women in the night, who put him in the water to the ſhowldere blaeds, and that he knew three of them, Iſobel Troylus, Elſpet Seith, and Helen Swyn.

David Arthur called, compeirs not. His miniſter declares that he had come to him, and ſpoken to him, that he might not travell for a ſore ſyde.

Johne Grahame called, compeirs, and being examined, declared, that he heard not Andrew Patrik ſpeake of Iſobell Troylus nor Helen Swyn.

The whole mater is referred till the firſt meiting after the Provinciall, and all perſones having intereſt ar ordeined to be ſummond to be their.

Aprill 12.—Anent the mater of Elſpet Seith, ſuſpect of witchcraft, the Preſbyterie reſolves to adwyſe with the Juſtice Deput, Mr. Alexander Colven, if what has bein found againſt hir be ſufficient grownd to recommend hir to the civill judge to be incarcerat for tryall; and, for that effect, ordained the clerk to extract hir proceſſe out of the Preſbyterie book, and to delyver it, together with the proceſſe of the Seſſioun of Balmirrinoch, to the firſt of their number that goes to the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, wher they may have occaſion of adwyſing with the Juſtice Deput,

Mr. George Thomſon is ordeined to cauſe ſummond Thomas Kynneir and the reſt of the paroche, anent the ſclander of witchcraft wented, as was alledged, by Andrew Patrik againſt Helen Swyn.

Apryl 19.—Anent the foirſaid ſclander of witchcraft raiſed upon Helen Swyn by Andrew Patrik, as is alledged, the foirſaid Andrew not being ſummoned to this day, Mr Walter Greig is ordeined to cauſe ſummond him againſt the nixt day.

Apryl 26.—Thomas Kynneir, being called and queſtioned anent the ſcandale of witchcraft raiſed againſt Helen Swyn, declared, that Andrew Patrik elder had ſaid ſo to him before thir witneſſes, David Arthure, Jean Kinloch, Andrew Patrik younger, and Marjory Stein. Being queſtioned, whither it was Andrew Patrik elder or younger that had ſaid ſo? Anſwered, that he was ſure Andrew Patrik elder did affirme to him that he ſaw Elſpet Seith and Iſobell Troylus, and that Helen Swyn was ſpoken off alſo, but whither by Andrew Patrik elder or younger he dothe not weill remember.

Andrew Patrik elder, being called and queſtioned anent the foirſaid mater, denyed that he knew any of theſe women whom he ſaw except Elſpet Seith; and denyed alſo that ewer he ſpake of any other to Thomas Kynneir, or any body elſe. The ſaid Andrew being queſtioned, if he had any thing to except againſt any of the witneſſes? anſwered that he had nothing.

David Arthur compeired, and being queſtioned wpon oath, deponed, that he heard young Andrew Patrik ſay to Thomas Kynneir, in his fathers heiring, that old Andrew, his father, ſaid, that Helen Swyn was amongſt theſe women; and that in the meane tyme, his father ſpak nothing againſt it. Being queſtioned, whither he heard Andrew Patrik ſpeak of Iſobel Troylus, or not? Deponed, that he ſaw old Andrew rownding[1] to Thomas Kynneir, and immediatly the ſaid Thomas ſpoke out, ſaying, "I ſhall ridle what he hath rounded;" which was, that Iſobel Troylus was amongſt them. Wherunto the ſaid Andrew replyed, ſaying, "The thing that I have ſaid is truthe." Being queſtioned, if he heard of any other woman? Deponed, that he heard of none other, ſave of Elſpet Seith.

[1] Whispering.

Andrew Patrik younger, being called, not compeiring, Mr. George Thomſone is ordeined to cauſe ſummond him againſt the nixt day, together with Marjory Stein, and Jean Kinloch as witneſſes in the ſaid mater.

Maij 3.—Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs: being ſolemnly atteſted, declares, that he nevere ſpake, nor heard his father ſpeake, that he knew any of theſe women, except Elſpet Seith, and that his father was drunk at [the] tyme when it was alledged he ſpake theſe thinges. The Preſbyterie ordaines Mr. George Thomſon to confront the ſaid Andrew with David Arthur before the Seſſioun of Kilmany anent the foirſaid ſpeaches, and to report.

Jean Kinloch and Marjory Stein being called, and not compeiring, Mr. George Thomſon declared, that they came to him, and ſaid they knew nothing in the ſaid mater. He is ordeined to examine them before their Seſſioun, and to report the nixt day.

May 10.—This day, Sir James Scott of Tarvett compeired, and being aſked, if he had ſubſcryved the Proteſtation (or band of adherence theirto) againſt the Supplication of the ſhyre to the Parliament againſt the late wnlawfull Engadgement? who anſwered, that he was ſicke in the tyme of the Proteſtation, and that he never ſaw it, nor ſubſcryved it, nor the Band of Adherence theirto: And withall confeſſed, that he had ſitten in the committy, and given out ordors for the promoving of the ſaid wnlawfull Engadgement; which he acknowledged to be a gryt fault, and profeſſed his unfained ſorrow for the ſame; affirming alſo, that he never lyked the Engadgement, nor yet was violent in the advancement of it; but only what he did was in obedience to the law. The Preſbyterie, taking his declaration to their conſideration, werre ſeverally enquyred, both miniſters and elders preſent, if they knew any thing contrare theirto, and finding nothing, ordeined him to be admittit to the ſwearing and ſubſcryving of the Covenant in the Seſſioun of Sires the nixt Lords day.

May 17.—The whilk day, Mr. William Levingſtone reported the diligence of the Seſſioun of Falkland, extract out of their book as followes:

May 16, 1649. The Sessioun of Falkland being conveined for giving answere to the questiones ordeined be the Presbyterie to be enquyred, touching the scandalous report raised in the paroche of Falkland, did answere as followes: To the first, namely, Of whom it is? It

is answered, that it is of Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercomby. To the 2d, What it is? It is answered, that in particular they cannot condiscend wpon it, except in this farr, that their was, as is reported, some behaviour betuixt them, which gave such offence to hir howsband, as he went away in gryt rage, and left hir behind him: what hes bein the behaviour in particular, must be best knowne to my Lord Abercromby, who took the offence. As to the thrid, How it was raised? It is answered, that the said Lord Abercromby his going away in such a rage, and leaving his Lady behind him, and, as it is reported, his owne expressiones of greif and anger within the Palace, occasioned the raising of this report.

Extract out of the Sessioun Book of Falkland, and subscryved by Mr. ROBERT ARNOT, *Clerk.*

The Preſbyterie taking the ſame to their conſideration, they ordeine the Seſſioun of Falkland to enquyre particularly to what ſinne that behaviour tended betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercromby, which is reported to have given offence to hir howſband; and what werre theſe expreſſiones of greif and anger wttered by him in the Palace, which ar ſaid to have occaſioned the raiſing of the foirſaid ſcandalous report.

This day, Mr. George Thomeſone gave in the diligence of the Seſſioun of Kilmany, as followes:

Maij 6, 1649. The whilk day, the Sessioun, according to the Presbyteries apointment, did call before them David Arthur, and Andrew Patrik younger, and conveined them in the face of the Sessioun. David Arthur did stand close to that which he had said before the Presbyterie, without any alteration. Andrew Patrik first denyed that his father had spoken any thing of any other women then Elspet Seith; theirafter, he said that he knew not whither he spake of any other or not. At last, he affirmed that he speired at his father, if Helen Swyn was among them? and that his father answered that she was; but that presently he turned his tongue againe, and denyed it. He affirmed, also, that his father and he, and all the company, were in drink.

Jean Kinloch called, compeires, and being examined, did declare that she heard nothing of their discourse, she being but comming and going to them, save that she heard Andrew Patrik elder say, that he had bein drowned had not Elspet Seith saved him.

Marjory Stein called, compeirs not. Jean Kinloch declared, that the reason of hir not compeiring was, that she was gone to visite hir sister, who was sicke, and send for to hir.

The Preſbyterie ordeines Mr. George Thomeſon to cauſe ſummond Thomas Kynneir to compeir before the Preſbyterie the nixt day, either to give up witneſſes for probation of his alleadgeance of witchcraft againſt Helen Swyn, or els to be diſcerned ſcandaler; and apoints the Seſſioun of Kilmany to tak ordor with their drukenneſſe.

This day, Mr. David Dalgleiſhe declared, that Marjory Winſter had

yeſterday made a voluntar confeſſioun of witchcraft, which this day ſhe had denyed. The Preſbyterie recommends the ſaid mater to the care of the Seſſioun of Couper, and in the meane tyme apoints Mr. James Wedderburne and Mr. Walter Greig to joyne with Mr. David Dalgleiſhe to conferr with hir after the Preſbyterie.

Maij 31.—Mr. David Reatt deſyred the advyſe anent the cenſure of ſome in his paroche, who werre plewing on the day of thankſgiving. The Preſbyterie ordeines them to be ſharply rebuiked before the Seſſioun; and that miniſters heirafter ſhall publickly diſcharge, from the pulpit, the lyke heirafter at ſolemne faſts or thankſgiving, wnder the paine of eccleſiaſtick cenſure, that none pretend ignorance.

Mr. William Livingſtoun reported the diligence of the Seſſioun of Falkland, in anſwere to the Preſbyteries queries. To the firſt, That the ſcandalous behaviour betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercromby, as is reported, did tend to the ſinne of adultery. And to the ſecond, That my Lord Abercromby his expreſſiones of greif and anger, which occaſioned the raiſing of the ſaid report, can not be otherwyſe knowne then by examination of my Lord Annandail his family, which they referre to the Preſbyterie.

Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he went to Marjory Winſter, who ſeemed to him to diſſemble and feinzie madneſſe. Mr. David Dalgleiſhe lykewyſe declared, that ſhe had gone away to Sanctandros whence ſhe came. The Preſbyterie ordeines Mr. William Row to acquaint the miniſters of Sanctandros heirwith.

Junij 7.—Mr. George Nairne came for correſpondence from the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros, whom the Preſbyterie deſyred to cauſe their Preſbyterie ſummond my Lord and my Lady Abercromby to compeir before ws againſt this day fyften dayes; and lykewyſe to try anent Marjory Winſter, ſuſpect of witchcraft, fled to their bownds.

Junij 14.—This day, Mr. Walter Greig produced the proceſſes of the Seſſioun of Balmirrinoch and Preſbyterie againſt Elſpet Seith, together with Mr. Alexander Colwill, Juſtice deput, his adwyſe theiranent, ſubſcryved with his hand, declaring, that in them their ar ſufficient grownds againſt hir of incarceration *ad inquiſitionem*. Lykeas, Mr. Walter pro-

duced a warrand, from the Parliament to the Magiſtrats of Couper, to apprehend and incarcerat hir. The Preſbyterie ordeines Mr. John Alexander to goe and acquaint the Magiſtrats of Couper heirwith, and deſyre their aſſiſtance theirin.

Mr. William Row reported, that the Earle of Crawfuird and his family did not joyne (my Lady being ſicke and not able to joyne) in the thankſgiving, deſyring the Preſbyteries direction theiranent. The Preſbyterie reſolves to enquyre at the neighbour Preſbyteries what they have done in ſic caiſſes; and for this end, ordeines Mr. David Reatt to correſpond with Sanctandros, and Mr. William Livingſtoun with Kirkaldy.

Junij 21.—The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig reported, that the Magiſtrats of Couper refuiſed a priſon for Elſpet Seith, notwithſtanding that the Seſſioun of Balmirrinoch had ſent two elders to be caution for hir charges during hir empriſſonment. David Robertſone compeired, and in the name of the Towne of Couper offered the theifes-holl to be a priſon to hir. The Preſbyterie ordeines Mr. Andrew Bennett, and George Paterſone, to repreſent to the Magiſtrats the inconveniency of that place, and to requyre a more fitting.

The Preſbytery ordeines Commiſſioners to the Generall Aſſembly to have their charges payed conſtantly heirafter, as they werre the laſt yeir, viz. that theſe who have bein Commiſſioners before ſhall have 50 merks. And ordeines the brethren to bring in thair ſeverall proportiones of the ſamyn againſt this day eight dayes; and Mr. Andrew Bennett to be collector of it. Mr. David Reatt proteſted againſt the act, whoſe reaſones ſhalbe ſein.

Mr. David Reat reported that he had correſponded with the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros the laſt day, and declared, that that Preſbyterie had referred ſuch malignants amongſt them as abſented themſelfes from the thankſgeving, and werre formerly ſuſpendit from the Covenant and Communion, to the nixt Generall Aſſembly. The Preſbytery reſolves to follow that ſame courſe withe the Earle of Crawfurd and ſuch of his family as did abſent themſelffes from the thankſgiving; who ar theirfor referred to the enſewing Generall Aſſembly.

Junij 28.—The Preſbytery recommends to the ſeverall brethren that

the Catechefe, difcharged by the laft Generall Affemblie, be not ufed within their bounds.[1]

The Prefbyterie apointes our Commiffioners to reprefent to the Generall Affembly thefe following defyres:

Firft, That the Affembly would think wpon a way for helping the provifion of the Poore in thefe paroches where the heritors and poffeffors of lands doe not refide.

2. That the Affembly would preffe the meitting of that Committy of lawiers, phyfitians, and divynes, for the Tryall of Witches.

3. That the Parliament may be defyred to caufe the Committy for Plantation of Kirks to fitt, that benefitts granted by the Parliament to the Kirk may be confirmed in law wheir neid is.

4. That the Affembly wold carefully enquyre after that divifive Supplication that was hatching about the tyme of the laft Generall Affembly, that this Prefbyterie and province may be freed from any imputation theirin.

5. That ane wniforme courfe for wfing of the Directory of Worfhip may be apointed throghout the Kirk.

Auguft 6, 1649.—This day, we received a lettre from the Prefbytrie of Perth, defyring our concurrence for taking away the fcandalous and finfull fying of fhearers on the Sabboth day at Abernethy. The Prefbyterie ordeines the fame to be difcharged publikly out of pulpit, and that their be no fying of fhearers upon the Lords day at Abernethy, nor Couper, nor any wher elfe within our bounds; and Mr. David Dalgleifhe, with Ferny, ar ordeined to reprefent the fame to the Committy of the fhyre, and to defyre them to apoint fome other day for that effect; and a lettre to be written to the Prefbyterie of Perth fignifieing the fame.

The proceffes of the Seffioun of Kilmany, (together with thefe that werre adjoyned with them,) againft Elfpet Bell, is committed to Mr. James Wedderburne to be revifed againft the nixt day.

[1] The General Assembly, on 28 July 1648, prohibited the "selling, or using in Schools or families of a little Catechism, entitled, *The A, B, C, with the Catechism*, which contains very gross errors in point of universal Redemption, and in the number of the Sacraments." At the same time, the Catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, was sanctioned "as a common Catechism for the three kingdomes."—*Acts Gen. Ass.*

Elſpet Seith is ordeined to be recommended to the Magiſtrats of Couper to be incarcerat for tryall. The Baillyies ar deſyred to cauſe keip hir cloſſe, and permitt no body to offer violence to hir, nor have acceſſe to hir, but ſuch as the Preſbyterie ſhall appoint. The Preſbytrie ordeines two of their brethren to come in all the dayes of the week, *per vices*, except Saturday, to exhort hir and pray with hir; and deſyres Mr. James Givane be clerk to the proceſſe.

Alexander Jameſon being called, and poſed, If he had apointed and foght a duell with Henry Sibbald? Acknowledged that he had foughten with him, but accidentaly, and not by any mutuall appointment betuixt them, and theirfor denyed it to be a dwell. He is ſummond, *apud acta*, to compeir the nixt day.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declared, that he had ſent over the money for the Iriſh boyes to our Commiſſioners at Edenburgh, and Mr. William Row produced a diſcharge heirof, ſubſcryved by Mr. James Hamiltoun, who was ordeined to be the receiver of the ſame.

Mr. Alexander Balfour and Ferny ar ordeined to deſyre the proveſt and magiſtratts of Couper to change their Monday and Saturdayes mercatts to ſome other day of the week.

Auguſt 23.—The brethren ar apointed to diſcharge publikly out of pulpit the fying of ſherers wpon the Lords day; and to intimat that the tyme apointed by the Committy of the ſhyre is Saturday, about 5 houres afternoon in Couper; and at Abernethy by the Committy of Perth, on Moneiday at 5 in the morning. Mr. Lawrence Oliphant is ordeined, in name of the Preſbyterie, to ſignify ſo much to the Preſbyterie of Perth.

Henry Sibbald, being called, confeſſed, that he had ignorantly ſaid that he had fought a dwell with Alexander Jameſone, but denyed that they had apointed to fight, and that it was accidentall betuixt them. The lyke was declared by Alexander Jameſone. The Preſbyterie finding nothing to the contrair, and heiring that the men werre reconciled, ordeined them to be gravely rebuiked for their diſcord, and exhorted by the Moderator to a better cariage.

The brethren ar exhorted carefully to purge their Seſſiouns from ſcandalous and ignorant perſones; and that overtures ſhalbe found out for it.

September 6.—This day, the brethren ar interrogat, If family worſhip be advanced in their paroches? It is anſwered, ſome ſmall progreſſe in it, yet not ſo full as they wold wiſh.

This day, it is apointed that all the perſons who deponed againſt Elſpet Seith be ſummond againſt the nixt day, to be againe confronted with hir, and the brethren ar apointed to examine hir.

The Moderator produceth a lettre from the Committy of the ſhyre for purging of the army. And alſo to try what ſcandalous perſones, pedyor-women[1] ar amongſt them; and it is apointed, that ewery miniſter ſhall intimat to the congregation that they come to the Seſſioun and declare.

September 13.—This day, Elſpet Seith compeires, and being confronted with Jean Bruiſe, the ſaid Jeane declares, that Elſpet Seith had ſaid to hir ſiſter, "Is your kow calfed?" The young laſſe anſwered, "Know ye not that our kow is calfed?" The ſaid Elſpet replyed, "Their is milk beweſt me, and milk be-eaſt, and aill in David Stennous houſe, and a hungry heart can gett none of it. The diwell put his foot among it." And before that tyme tomorrow ther kow wold eate none; wherwpon they went to find Elſpet Seith, but ſhe keiped hir cloſe within hir houſe 4 dayes and was not ſein; but the ſaid Elſpet affirmed, that the wind was in hir doore. At laſt the ſaid Jean went to hir, and deſyred hir to come ſie their kow, and deſyred ſome ſeids from hir. She anſwered, ſhe had no ſeids, but ſhe ſhowld gitt ſome; who came with the ſeids ſometymes weitt, and ſometymes dry; and the ſaid Jean affirmes, that the ſaid Elſpet went in to ſie the kow, and layd hir hand wpon hir bake, and ſaid, "Lamby, lamby, yee wilbe weill enough." And from that tyme furth the kow amended.

It is alſo declared by the ſaid Jean, that ſhe uſed to ſitt downe in the way when ſhe mett any body.

Iſobel Oliphant declares, that hir kow, with the reſt of the kyne, uſe to pluk thak out of Elſpet Seithes houſe; the ſaid Elſpet Seith came furth and ſtrak hir kow. Bot before the morrow, ſhe affirmed, that the ſaid Elſpet did caſt a cantrep on hir kow, that ſhe wold not eate nor give milk, but did dwyne on a long tyme till ſhe dyed. The ſaid Iſobell affirmed,

[1] Apparently women of loose character, who followed the army as *pedlars*.

that ſhe newer ſpake it, but Elſpet Seith hir ſelfe did blaze it abroad. She declares, that ſhe did ſitt downe in the gate ordinarly.

Jonet Miller being called, and confronted with the ſaid Elſpet, declares, that ſhe came and looked in at Elſpet Seithes door, did ſie hir drawing a cheyne tether, and theirafter the ſaid Elſpet tooke the tether, and did caſt it eaſt and weſt, and ſouth and north.[1] She aſked hir what ſhe was doing; anſwered, "I am ewen looking at my kowes tether." The ſaid Jonet affirmes, that it is not a yeir ſince till Mertimes, and it is evidently knowne that ſhe had not a kow this ſixteen yeir.

The ſaid Elſpet denyes all, and wold have uſed violence to the ſaid Jonet if ſhe had bein permitted.

Jean Anderſone being called, and confronted with the ſaid Elſpet, declared, that the ſaid Elſpet requyred milk, and ſhe gave hir bread but no milk. And when ſhe went to milk hir kow, ſhe fand nothing but blood firſt, and theirafter blak water all that ſeaſon. The ſaid Jean being queſtioned, If ſhe did call the ſaid Elſpet a witch? She confeſſed ſhe did. She declared alſo, that the ſaid Elſpet uſed to ſit downe when ſhe mett any body.

Andrew Patrik, being confronted with the ſaid Elſpet, is queſtioned, If ewer he ſaw the ſaid Elſpet early or late in the fold? Anſwered, that he had ſein hir ſeverall tymes, and once he ſaw hir in the morning, and he had a litle dog who barked deſpytefully at hir: She deſyred him, "Stay the dog." He anſwered, "I wold it wold worry yow." Theirafter the dog newer eated. He affirmed alſo, that he ſaw hir amongſt theſe women dancing. She denyed all.

The ſaid Andrew affirmed, that Johne Blak in the paroche of Forgen, and Johne Mitchel in the paroche of Leuchars, could declare concerning hir; wherfor the Preſbyterie ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne, and Mr. Johne Dury to wrett to theſe paroches to cauſe ſummond the ſaids perſones.

Margaret Boyd is confronted with the ſaid Elſpet, and declares, that

[1] Witches were said to have had the power of making the milk of their neighbour's cow flow into their own vessels, by drawing, or *milking* (as it was termed,) a tedder in Satan's name, and circulating it in a contrary direction to the sun.

hir goodman, Robert Broun, went to deathe with it, that Elſpet Seith and other two did ryde him to deathe; which he declared before the miniſters wyfe, Mr. James Sibbald, ſcholmaſter, and David Stennous, elder. She affirmes alſo, that he aſked his wyfe, If ſhe did not ſie hir goe away? She feared, and anſwered him, that ſhe ſaw not; and immediatly he was eaſed.

Jonet Miller againe compeirs, and declares that hir howſband, David Grahame, ſaw Elſpet Seith and Helen Young meitt, the one going one way, and the other another, the ſaid Elſpet ſat downe on hir knees, and Helen Young layd hir hand on hir ſhowlder, and ſhe ſpak ſome words to hir. The ſaid David Grahame queſtioning Helen Young on hir deadbed, what ſhe was doing then when they mate? She anſwered, that ſhe was deſyring Elſpet Seith to witch him. He queſtioned hir, why ſhe wold not doe it hir ſelfe? She anſwered, ſhe had no power.

Iſobel Blak called, and confronted with the ſaid Elſpet, declares nothing, but that ſhe wſed ordinarly to hurch downe in the gate lyk a hare.

The brethren ar apointed to meitt with hir for tryall; Fryday, Mr. Johne Alexander; Monday, Mr. Laurence Oliphant; Twyſdey, Mr. James Martin; Weddenſday, Mr. Johne Litlejohne.

September 20.—For purging of the Army, Mr. David Reatt declares, that their is one Johne Watſon quartered with them who was in the late Engadgement.

Mr. Alexander Balfour declares, that in Ebdy their is alſo Johne Litle.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declares, that one Andrew Crocatt had long ſince raviſhed a woman in their paroche; and therfor now deſyres to know if he werre in the rolls of ſoldiers.

Mr. Walter Greig declares, that one Johne Carny had committed a ryot within their paroche.

Concerning the tryall of others ther, it is recommended farder diligence.

This day compeirs Johne Blak, who declared, that he ſaw a hare ſucking a kow, and ſhe run in among the hemp towards Elſpet Seiths houſe.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a proceſs againſt Thomas Marre, concerning his innaturality to his parents. It is referred to the Acts of Parliament and Provinciall.

Mr. David Dalgleiſhe deſyred to be referred to the Provinciall, anent the forme of teaching the Catechiſe for the uſe of ruder people.

October 11.—This day, the Moderator did queſtion the brethren who werre apointed to try Elſpet Seith, ſuſpect of witchcraft, that week. It is anſwered, that they had found nothing confeſſed.

It is apointed, that two of the brethren ſhall meitt, *per vices*, for tryall of Elſpet Seith.

October 25.—This day, the Preſbytrie apoints two brethren to goe to the proveſt and bailzies of Couper, and to enquyre anent Elſpet Seith, ſuſpect of witchcraft, if they wold tak hir off their hand, and put hir in a cloſe priſon, wheir none might have acceſſe to hir, and that they wold apoint ſome to watch hir wpon hir [their?] owne expenſs.

This day, Andrew Clerk, in the paroche of Darſy, appeirs before the Preſbyterie, for being of a long tyme ignorant and ſlighting the dyetts of examination. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance in ſackcloth before the pulpit, and to keep the dyetts of examination when the miniſter ſhall requyre him; and if betuixt this and Candelmes he ſhall not give evidence of more diligence to learne, they will proceed againſt him in the ſentence of excommunication.

[Mr. William Wemyſs, miniſter at Auchterhouſe.]

This day, the Magiſtrats of Couper returned ane anſwer to the Preſbyterie, ſhewing, that they wold give no other concurrence in trying of Elſpet Seith, except the theiffes-holl to be a wardhowſe for hir. It is apointed, that the Commiſſioners ſhall ſupplicat the Commiſſion of Eſtates to cauſe the towne of Couper concurre for trying of hir, and to cauſe them watch hir.

November 8.—It is apointed, that Mr. Walter Greig ſhall correſpond with Sanctandros, anent ſupplicating the Committy of Eſtates, for cauſing the towne of Couper concurre in the tryall of Elſpet Seith, according to a warrand from the Parliament.

November 21.—Thomas Kynneir, in the paroche of Kilmany, appears before the Preſbyterie, for wenting imprudently what he cowld not prove, caling Helen Swyn a witch, having nothing for it but that Andrew Patrik had rownded it to him. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance for the ſclander.

They alſo deſyre, that a liſt of the names of the poore in ewery paroche be broght in to the Preſbyterie. As alſo, a liſt of theſe that ſtand out and have not ſubſcryved the Covenant.

The whilk day, Sir Robert Crichtoun, in the paroche of Falkland, appeirs, and acknowledges himſelf to have bein at Sterling, and to have bein at Philiphaugh, and to have bein with James Graham in his rebellioun. He is referred to the Commiſſion of the Generall Aſſembly.

December 6.—Elſpet Seith, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, ſuſpect of witchcraft, appeiring, the Preſbyterie, conſidering that the town of Couper wold not aſſiſt in warding and watching the ſaid Elſpet, (according to the Act of Parliament,) and not finding it poſſible to gett hir otherwyſe tryed, having called hir before them, did ordein hir, lykas ſhe promyſed to compeir againe when ewer ſhe ſhowld be requyred.

December 20.—The whilk day, Mr. William Livingſtoun declares to the Preſbyterie, that he had agreed with the heritors of the paroche of Falkland, anent the augmentation of his ſtipend, and for furniſhing the Communion Elements, and to give fowrty pounds for his howſe meall; which is allowed by the Preſbyterie.

This day, Mr. Johne Berwik, in the paroche of Falkland, acknowledges that he had ſpoken raſhly of the Marques of Argyle. His fault being gravely laid to his charge by the Moderator, he is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance before the pulpit in the Kirk of Falkland.

January 17, 1650.—It is apointed by the Preſbyterie, that my Lord Abercromby, for removing of that ſcandal and report raiſed by him vpon his Lady at Falkland, ſhall appeir in the Kirk of Falkland, wpon ane Sonday before noon after ſermon, and having acquaint the miniſter with his preſence and reſolution to ſatiſfy, ſhall declare his fault in the ſeatt quher he ſhall happen to ſitt publikly in preſence of the congregation; and ſo ſhalbe receaved by the miniſter of the ſaid kirk. And for that effect, ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne to acquaint the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros heirwith, that they may urge him heirvnto.

This day, Sir George Moriſon, being called, appeirs before the Preſbyterie, and acknowledges that he had ſubſcryved the Proteſtation againſt the Supplication of the Kirk; he profeſſing his ſorrow for the ſame, he did ſubſcryve the Renunciation of that Proteſtation. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Lords day in the kirk of Darſy, and ſo to be admittit to the Covenant and Communion.

This day, Mr. David Dalgleiſhe reports from the Committy of the ſhyre, that the Committy was beginning to tak up a liſt of the Malignants. As alſo, that they werre entring to find a way for proviſion of the poore.

Jannary 31.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, Moderator, with Mr. David Orme, miniſter at Monemell, reported that, according to the apointment of the Preſbyterie, they went to Colleſſy the 6 of this inſtant, their mett with the Heritors of the ſaid paroche for ſetling the miniſter, according to the act of Parliament, in ſtipend, manſe, gleib, communion elements, graſſe, and foggiſh; and fand them content in all particulars, according to the late act, to mak out for ſtipend ſixe chalders victuall, one hundreth pounds, fyfty merks for communion elements, and to give him fyve hundreth merks for reedifieing of his manſe; and that the Preſbyterie deſigne graſſe with his gleib, with the priviledges of fewell and foggiſh, whilk accordingly they deſigned: whilk diligence the Preſbyterie did approve, recommending to the Lords Commiſſioners for ſurrenders the ratification heirof, together with the reedifieing in quality and quantity as ſhall ſeem fitteſt to their Lordſhips.

Peter Hay of Forrett, being called, appeirs before the Preſbyterie, and acknowledges his ſorrow for being a Roetmaſter[1] in the late ſinfull Engadgement. He is apointed to ſubſcryve the Band annexed to the Declaration (which he did), and to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Sabaoth in the kirk of Logy.

February 28.—This day, Mr. David Dalgleiſhe preſents a letter from Thomas Setoun coronett his mother, ſhowing hir conſent to his mariage; together with a teſtificat from Collonel Sir Johne Browne, of his ſatiſfaction for being in the Engadgement; as alſo, a teſtimoniall from Mr. David Lyndſay, miniſter at Bahelvie, of his good education. The Preſbyterie apoints him to be maried.

This day, their is preſented 19 Declarationes of the Committy of Eſtates, together with the Kirks Declaration in anſwere to James Grahame his Declaration. The brethren ar apointed to reid the Kirks Declaration in ewery kirk the nixt Sabaoth.

[1] *Ritmaster,* a Captain of horse.

March 21.—The whilk day, is prefented a lettre from the Commiffion of the Generall Affembly, ordeining a faft to be keiped the firft Sabaoth of Apryl, for the fame caufes that the former faft was keiped; and that wee may concurre with the Commiffioners to his Majeftie. It is apointed to be intimat the laft Sabaoth of March.

The whilk day, the Prefbyterie having receaved a lettre from the Prefbyterie of Kirkaldy, and prefented by Mr. Henry Wilkie, that new erected landward paroche of Kirkaldy had given a call to Mr. Patrik Wems, expectant amongft us, to be their minifter, which they had approven; and to interpofe our authority with the faid Mr Patrik to follow the faid call. The Prefbyterie, taking the foirfaids to their ferious confideration, doe advyfe the faid Mr. Patrik to follow the call given to him by the paroche and Prefbyterie of Kirkaldy, and to goe to the faid Prefbyterie and enter to his tryalls as he fhalbe requyred.

Apryl 11.—James Dury, in the paroche of Newburgh, being delated, and being obferved to be ane ordinar breaker of the Sabaoth, and contemning the difcipline of the Kirk, is apointed to be fummond to appeir before the Prefbyterie this day eight dayes.

The Act anent civile mulcts, and eftablifhing of Judicatories in Seffiouns for exacting mulcts, and all Acts relative to finne, ar apointed to be broght home by the Commiffioners.

Maij 9.—This day, the new paraphrafe of the Pfalmes came from the Commiffion of the Kirk; ewery brether received a copy, and werre apointed to intimat to their congregationes on the Sabaoth following before noon and afternoon to practife them.

J. Dury.—James Dury, in the paroche of Newburgh, being called, compeirs, and was declared, be the minifter, to have bein out of the kirk eight Sabaoths; and becaufe he wold nowayes give fatiffaction, by fubmitting to the difcipline of the kirk, he is recommendit to the civile magiftrate to be put in firmance till he fand fufficient caution to give fatiffaction to the order of the Kirk.

At Logy, Maij 16.—*Vifitation of Logy.*—The whilk day, the Prefbyterie mett at the Kirk of Logie, (according to the former ordinance,) Mr. David Beatt preached. After incalling of the name of God, is produced, for-

maly indorſed, the roll of the heritors and elders is called for, produced; and all of them being cited, compeired, except Southeſk, for whom the Laird of Aitoun wndertook. The Moderator declares to them the end of their meitting.

The draught of the interrogatories concerning miniſters and elders ar red; both of thame ar taken ſworne to declare the truthe, in ſo far as they know; all ar removed, except Alexander Ramſay, who, upon his oath declares, that the miniſter had a litle forgetfulneſſe in celebrating the Communion, viz. that he ſate at the end of the table, and did reach the elements to als many as he could; and that he was ſlak in viſiting the ſicke; that ſome tymes he red the papers himſelfe, ſent from the Commiſſion of the Kirk, and ſometymes he cauſed the clerk of the Seſſioun to reid them; and that he was ſlak in viſiting of families, and that he inclined to a ſet forme of prayer.

William Bell declares, that the miniſter is ſlak in viſiting the ſicke; that he hes keiped in his howſe, for the ſpace of a yeir, a woman ſcandalous for want of teſtimoniall (thogh it was requyred by the elders), and admitting hir to the Communion.

Mr. James Burne declares, that the miniſter is ſparing in ſpeaking againſt the ewills of the tyme, eſpecially malignancy; and that he ſpeaks not eneugh for our delyverance from James Grahame; and that his giving of the Communion was impertinent, and did not pleaſe him, viz. firſt, taking it by himſelf alone, then giving the elements to als many as he cowld reach, which was his old cuſtome; and that he had a woman in his howſe without a teſtimoniall, as ſaid is; that he had ſome converſing with malignants, eſpecialy with Mr. James Hey; that he is ſlak in viſiting the ſicke and families; that ſome tymes he reſtraines the liberty of elders in Seſſioun, but lately hath amended it.

Johne Miller declares, that he finds more comfort in other miniſters doctrine nor in his; and that their is a difference betuixt his celebratting of the Communion and others. In the other points he deponed as the former.

James Cunnings declares, that he is ſlak in ſpeaking againſt malignants; his weekly catechiſing is intimat to none except to thoſe who ar advertiſed by the beddell.

The reſt of the elders ar called, who depone, that the miniſter is ſlak in viſiting the ſicke, and keipes a woman without a teſtimoniall in his howſe, as ſaid is; that before they had no freedome to ſpeak in Seſſioun, but now they have; that he was ſlak in reproving malignants; and that his ordinar text was in the Revelation, and his lecture in Job.

All the elders deſyres the miniſter to be admoniſhed to intimat his weekly catechiſing publikly; and that they might have a ſchole. The heritors, who werre not elders, declares, that they cowld ſay nothing, in reſpect they werre not reſidents within the paroche. The brethren of the Preſbyterie (at leſt ſome of them) regrates his vnſeaſonable ſilence in tyme of the Engadgement againſt Malignants.

The elders ar removed, the miniſter is called wpon, and, wpon his oath, depones, that the elders werre very obedient in all things, and diligent in attending their callings.

The miniſter, heritors, and elders being altogether preſent, they ar demanded, if they had a ſchole? Anſwered, not for the preſent. And being aſked, what overture they wold make for having one? Anſwered, that they werre content that the ſcholemaſter ſhowld have the annuelrent of that 1000 merks left by the vnquhile Laird of Logy; and that the heritors werre content to adde to the ſaid annuell 40 lib. yeirly, and they proportionaly to be ſtentit for that effect; and the tennents to give 3 bolls beir yeirly; and all condiſcend that a ſchole ſhowld be built *primo quoque tempore*, and a ſcholmaſter provyded.

It is demanded, if the miniſter hes for the preſent a ſufficient manſe and gleib, with the pertinents, according to the act of Parliament? It is anſwered, that he had a manſe, with two aikers of land, without the pertinents. The miniſter is ordered to uſe all diligence for helping this defect.

Mr. George Thomſon is enquyred, what he hes obſerved in the Seſſioun book? Anſwered, that he finds many imperfyte and informall proceſſes in it; and that their was ſeverall acts wnbeſeeming a Seſſioun book, and ſeverall mulcts employed in civile uſes; all which he cleired from the book at that inſtant.

The miniſter, heritors, and elders removed, the Preſbyterie falls wpon advyſing what ſhalbe the concluſion of that dayes work. And whil they

ar advyſing, Mr. Johne Dury comes in, and earneſtly deſyres a helper, promyſing, for his part, to give the augmentation preſently granted be the Commiſſion for plantation of kirks for his mantenance during his lyfetyme. The Preſbyterie is very well pleaſed with the overture. Therfore the heritors ar called wpon, and declares the ſame to them, who werre very weell content therwith, promyſing, for their part, to adde to the ſaid augmentation a 100 lib. yeirly during the ſaid Mr. Johne his lyfetyme. They being removed, the Preſbyterie finds thir particulars proven by the elders, viz. 1. Diſforderly and corrupt celebratting of the Communion. 2. Negligent in viſiting the ſicke. 3. Keiping in his howſe a yeir a woman ſcandalous for want of a teſtimoniall, thogh it was requyred by the elders, and admitting hir to the Communion. 4. Slak in ſpeaking againſt malignancy. 5. Sometyme he reſtrained elders freedome, but now hath amendit it. 6. Chuſing impertinent places of Scripture for his ordinary text in preaching and lecturing, viz. Revellation laſt; Job for lecture. 7. No ignorants ar debarred from the Communion.

Junij 12.—*Mr. George Robertſone his buſſineſſe.*—Mr. Johne Makgill younger, refuſeth to ſubſcryve Mr. George Robertſone his teſtimoniall, in reſpect he had heard that he had wttered ſome light impertinent expreſſiones, and wnbeſeeming one aiming at the miniſtrie, as that he ſaid, he could eaſily winne the favour of any gentlewoman, and in the end give hir a blew: and that if Lady Margaret Kennedy[1] werre a good chriſtian, ſhe wold not ſtay in my Lord Crawfuird his howſe: and he ſaid, "I wiſhe I werre hanged, if I be maried with Helen Kob, I ſhall call all malignants to the mariage, and my Lord Crawfuird with the firſt:" and that my Lord Crawfuird was as gryt a malignant as James Grahame.

Mr. George Robertſone, being called and queſtioned anent theſe thinges, confeſſeth that he ſaid he cowld winne the favour of any gentle woman, but to his beſt memory he did not ſay he wold give hir a blew, nor any thing to that ſenſe: he denyes the ſecond; he denyes alſo the thrid: He confeſſeth that he ſaid, whoſoewer they werre, be it my Lord Crawfuird

[1] She was the daughter of John, sixth Earl of Cassillis, and wife of Bishop Burnet. She was reputed a wit, and a great patron of the Presbyterians. Her letters to John, Duke of Lauderdale, with whom she intrigued, were published in 1828, 4to.

or any other, that werre actors in that Engadgement, in ſo farr they did ſecond what James Grahame had done.

The proceſſes of the women ſuſpect of witchraft, ar delyvered to Mr. James Wedderburne to be reviſed; and he is ordeined to report.

Junij 27.—*Mr. George Robertſone.*—The Preſbyterie conſidering Mr. George Robertſone his proceſſe againſt him ſufficiently proven, he is therfor ſuſpendit from preaching till ther be gryt evidence of his repentance.

July 4.—It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Preſbyterie ſhall meett at Falkland on Monday at 9 howres, and the Moderator is apointed to ſpeak to the King.

My Lord Crawfurd his buſſineſſe.—This day, my Lord Crawfuird appeirs before the Preſbyterie, and dothe acknowledge his wnfained ſorrow for being in the wnlawfull Engadgement, the advyſe of the Preſbyterie with concurrence in ſupplicating the Generall Aſſembly for reſtoring him to the priviledges of the Kirk. The Preſbyterie advyſeth his Lordſhip to goe to the Generall Aſſembly and ſupplicat them, and that they will with all ther power deall for his Lordſhip at ther hands.

Anent the proceſſes of the women ſuſpect of witchcraft, the conſideration of them is ſtill delayed, and ther proceſſes ar given to the Clerk to be keiped.

Julij 18.—This day, the Preſbyterie mett wpon occaſioun of lettres come from the Generall Aſſembly, with 19 Seaſonable Warnings. As alſo, lettres werre receaved from our Commiſſioners, anent the ſpeedy ſending of the moneyes for the proportion of the regement of horſes to be ſent to Collonell Strauchen.

It is apointed, that no ſcandalous perſones, or diſaffected to the cauſe of God, be ſent out for the army; and that none be ſent out without teſtimonialls from the Miniſter and Seſſioun, and that it be intimat publikly owt of pulpit, and privatly to Commiſſioners of pariſhes.

Auguſt 1.—It is apointed, that the publik faſt for Kirk, King, and Countrey, be intimat the nixt Sabboth to be on the Sabboth following, and the privat faſt to be on the Fryday before the publik faſt: And that rules be preſcryved by the Miniſter and Seſſioun, how families ſhowld behave themſelffes that day of the privat faſt, and wher ther is a family wherof

none can reid, that then they ſhall concurre with another that can reid; and that particular directiones be given by the miniſter on Weddenſday preceiding.

Auguſt 15.—Mr. David Dalgleiſhe declares, that ther is a woman ſuſpect of witchcraft, of whom he heard that ſhe had communicat in the kirk of Sires. She is apointed to be ſummoned to appeir before the Preſbyterie on Monday.

Mr. Alexander Balfour reports, that he, with Mr. Johne Makgill elder, had reviſed Mr. Andrew Lawthian his teſtimonialls; they doe allow him, and he is apointed, to uſe family worſhip in the Laird of Aitoun his family, and to catechiſe, pray, and reid.

It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Preſbyterie ſhall meet at Logy this day eight dayes, and that their the miniſter ſhall preach himſelfe wpon his ordinar text; that all having intereſt may be preſent, and that the meitting be for ſetlinge a college.

At Logy, Auguſt 22.—The Viſitation of Logy.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Dury preached wpon his ordinar text, viz. the laſt ch. of the Revellation, v. 6 and 7.

The brethren being mett; Mr. Johne Dury is removed; the brethren ar enquyred anent ther judgement of his doctrine; they all profeſſe that they ar confirmed in ther opinion, that the laſt chapters of the Revelation is nether meett for the miniſter nor the heirers his parochiners; and that they find greyt weakneſſe in him, and had miſtaken the text, and wold hardly be convinced of his inabilities.

The elders being called, and firſt enquyred, how they thoght of that dayes doctrine be at other tymes? Anſwered, that they fand grytter circumſpectneſſe in this then at other dyetts. Nixt being queſtioned, if ther had bein any impertinent challenges, ather from pulpit or in Seſſioun, ſince the laſt day of meitting? or if he had regrated his former omiſſions or commiſſiones? Anſwered, that he was ſo far from regretting his former faults, that he challenged elders both in pulpit and Seſſioun that they had wronged him.

All is delayed till the nixt day of meitting, and the heritors and elders ar apointed to be at the Preſbyterie for farder advancement of the work.

This day, Mr. George Robertſone appeirs before the Preſbyterie, and heartily bliſſeth the Lord for that cenſure that was put wpon him. He cravethe advyſe of the Preſbyterie, whither he ſhowld ſeik to be enlarged or not? The advyce is delayed till another fitter occaſion.

Auguſt 29.—This day, the Preſbyterie receaved a diſcharge for their proportion of the contribution of horſes, as followes:

Receaved from the Presbyterie of Cuper, two thousand one hundrethe and fyfty merks Scotts, being their proportion of ther voluntar contribution for the Ministers regement, according to the apointment of the Generall Assembly: As witnes my hand, at Edinburgh, 24 of August, 1650.

(Sic subscribitur) Mr. James Hamiltoun.

September 5.—This day, ther came a lettre from the Committy of Fyiff, deſyring all miniſters to exhort all fenſible perſones within ther paroches to be ready and well furniſhed; which they condiſcended wnto.

All particulars ar laid aſyde, for the difficulty of tyme; they ar referred to a more fitting tyme.

October 24.—Ther came a lettre this day from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, enjoyning every brother to mak enquyrie in ther paroches, if ther be any that hes had any acceſſioun to that wicked courſe of that inſurrection of the North, and to diſcover the degrees therof; or if they know any of the brether that hes had hand in it, to try all the brethren: being enquyred, ther was nothing found. The brethren ar deſyred to goe to the parochiners that ar any wayes ſuſpect, and try.

October 31.—This day, having receaved a lettre from the Commiſſioun at Sterling, ſhowing the ſad and ſorrowfull eſtate of many of our priſoners in Ingland; to witt, that about 500 of them ar dead, and theſe who ar alyve ar extreamly pinched with hunger, cold, and want of all comfortable ſupplies; and deſyring a contribution for them to be gathered in the kirks of this kingdome, and to ſend it to Sterling to the proveſt and dean of guild with all diligence: The Preſbyterie reſolved to condiſcend to the ſaid deſyre, and mak publik declaration therof the nixt Sabboth, and the Sabaoth after receive it from ewery brother, as God ſhall mete their hearts.

Ther is received alſo another lettre deſyring to ſend ſome of the brether

aud ruling elders of moſt experience to Sterling the 14 day of November, that they may concurre with ther help and counſell in ſic a indigence, many being abſent be reaſon of the tempeſtuous day.

The brethren reported, that they had found none that was privie to the King's eſcape, nor any acceſſory wnto the inſurrection of the malignant party; except Mr. William Row, who declared, that my Lord Crawfuird denyed that he knew any thing of the King's eſcape, but that he knew ſome that werre to ſupplicat the Commiſſioun of the Kirk that they might be in a capacity to fight for the cauſe of God.

December 5.—This day, Mr. George Hamiltoun came from the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros, and Mr. Patrik Wemyſs from the Preſbyterie of Kirkaldy, for correſpondence, to know what courſe this Preſbyterie wold tak with thoſe that werre acceſſory to the Kinges eſcape, and who had any correſpondence with thoſe enemies, or had taken protection from them. It is apointed, that ewery brother ſhall try in their ſeverall Seſſiounes if ther be any, and to bring in their report in writt; and Mr. William Row is apointed to correſpond with Sanctandros, and Mr. Johne Ramſay with Kirkaldy Preſbyteries, for that effect.

December 12.—Ther was alſo a lettre received from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, declaring ther ſenſe anent the Remonſtrances of the gentlemen, officiars, and miniſters, attending the forces of the Weſt. Ther was alſo ane Act received anent complyers with ſectaries, or the ſectarian army; and theſe who werre acceſſory to the late rebellioun in the North, be ſuſpendit from the communion till the nixt Generall Aſſembly, to the which they ar referred.

This day, is produced my Lord Crawfuird his declaration, wnder his owne hand, the tenor wherof followes:

I doe declare, that I never gave his Majestie advyse to leave the Committy and goe North, nor knew of his going untill I had it from Dundy, and a command to attend him. I surely professe that I knew some werre resolved to petitiou for liberty to hazard themselues and all was deare to them, for defence of Religioun and the Covenant, of which number I was one, and am still redy and desyrous to doe so if it shall seem good. But for other designes præjudiciall to Judicatory or person I know none.

(Sic subscribitur) CRAUFURD.

The Preſbyterie haveing received the former declaration, wnder my Lord Crawfuird his owne hand, anent his ſuppoſed acceſſioun to the Kings withdrawing from his Cownſell, and the late rebellion of the North: And the ſaid declaration being publickely red, and all the brethren being ſeverally interrogat, If they knew any thing further of any acceſſioun to theſe ſinfull courſes then he himſelfe had declared? Anſwered, they knew nothing. The Preſbyterie, haveing taken the præmiſſes to their conſideration, and being appointed by the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly to give in the report anent the ſaid mater, and perſounes acceſſory therto within our bownds, at their firſt Seſſioun, doe therfor ordein a double of the ſaid noble Lords declaration, together with the act, to be ſent to the Commiſſioun now ſitting at Perth. And if any thing further ſhalbe made appeir to ws, either concerning the ſaid noble Lord, or any other within our bownds heirafter, it ſhalbe lykewyſe reported with convenient diligence.

December 23.—The whilk day, a reference from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk to the Preſbyterie of Cupar, anent Sir Mungo Murray, for his acceſſioun to the late wnlawfull Engadgement againſt the kingdome of Ingland, that they may conferre with him and try the evidence of his repentance, and report their opinion to the nixt meitting of the Commiſſioun, being red; and the ſaid Sir Mungo, perſonally preſent, being heard, who acknowledged, that he was a Collonell of horſe in the ſaid late wnlawfull Engadgement, for the which he was heartily ſorrowfull; declaring the ſame to be ſinfull, wnlawfull, and deſtructive to the Covenant and work of reformation; and that he was ſorrie he had done any thing againſt the declarationes of the Kirk; and promyſed to walk more circumſpectly in tyme comeing: And the Preſbyterie, haveing heard the report of the brethren appointed to conferre with him, doe conceive the ſaid Sir Mungo to be ingenuous in his confeſſioun, and haveing exhorted him to walk in a cloſſe communion with God, and to ſyde with the people of God, teſtify the præmiſſes, ſubſcryved by the Moderator and Clerk, by the ordinance of the Preſbyterie.

January 16, 1651.—The whilk day, there is repreſented a reference from the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, anent the receiving of Sir Mungo Murray his repentance. Mr. David Dalgleiſhe and Mr. Walter Greig ar appointed to conferre with him anent the tryall of the evidence

of his repentance, they report they werre ſatiffied. He is therfor appointed to mak declaratioun of his repentance in the kirk of Cupar the nixt Lords day.

This day, Mr. Walter Greig informed the Preſbyterie, that he had received advertiſement that ther had bein ſuch doctrine preached by Mr. William Livingſtoun in the Kinges hearing as requyred to be adverted, and that gave offence to ſome. The Preſbyterie apointed, that the ſaid Mr. William ſhall goe to the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, and their cleir himſelfe, as he himſelfe deſyred.

January 23.—The whilk day, the Earle of Crawfuird being referred by the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly to the Preſbyterie of Cupar, for giveing ſatiffaction for any acceſſioun he had to the Kings late eſcape; The Preſbyterie haveing poſed him anent his acceſſioun therwnto, or that rebellioun in the North, he declared as before, that he was not wpon the cownſell of the Kings going away, nor knew of it till he heard that the King was at Dundey, which occaſioned his going thither. Lykewyſe, he acknowledged, that he knew ſeverall on the northſyde of Tay had a purpoſe to ſupplicat for liberty to act againſt the enemy; but of their declaration or hoſtile acts which followed ther wpon, he knew nothing. And that he himſelfe intended, accompanied with ſome of his owne freinds, (for his grytter ſecuritie,) to have ſupplicated the Committy of Eſtates for the lyke liberty; but without any purpoſe of joyneing with them in that declaration, or theſe their hoſtile acts. And lykewyſe he declared, that in his purpoſe of ſupplicating for the foirſaid liberty, he was very farr from the leaſt thoght of intending or indevoring any thing prejudiciall to the cauſe of God, or any perſone, or judicatorie whatſomewer.

The Preſbyterie takeing the ſame to their conſideration, and not finding it poſſible to get further cleiring in it, and being deſyrous to have the ſcandal of this acceſſioun to the foirſaid ſinfull courſes taken away, doe ordein his Lordſhip to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his wnſeaſonable and ſcandalous going to Dundey, to attend or follow the Kings Majeſtie when he had deſerted the publik Cownſell; as alſo, to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his ſinfull and ſcandalous correſponding with any, or acting any thing himſelffe, (though intending nothing but to ſupplicat, as ſaid is,) toward the drawing of his or their freinds together, to countenance or joyne in the lyke ſupplication, not

haveing any lawfull calling or power ſo to doe. And this to be done in the kirk of Sires the nixt Lords day, or if peremptory commands neceſſitat him to goe any wher ells before that tyme, in that cace ordeines him to doe it in the kirk of Cupar to morrow after ſermon.

March 6.—This day, Mr. Patrik Scougall came from the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros for correſpondence anent the oppreſſioun and profanity of the ſouldiers, deſyring that the Preſbyterie wold ſend ſome of their number to the Committy of the ſhyre now ſitting, to requyre them concurre with the Preſbyteries in ſupplicatting his Majeſtie and Committy of Eſtates for redreſſing of the ſaid inſolencies; wherwnto they condiſcended, and appointed that ewery brother ſhowld try in their Seſſiounes what they cowld find, and improve ſufficiently.

March 10.—The whilk day, a meitting being appointed for giveing in the complaints againſt the ſoldiers; as alſo, for falling wpon overtures for provyding for miniſters put from their charges by the enemy; their being preſent Mrs. David Dalgleiſhe, William Row, William Livingſtoun, Johne Litlejohne, David Orme; elders, Carſlogy and Nicol Maxwell, they appoint Mr. William Row and Mr. William Livingſtoun to goe to the Committy of the ſhyre now ſitting, to deſyre them concurre in ſupplicatting his Majeſtie and Committy of Eſtates, for redreſſing theſe inſolencies: They did returne, and reported they wold. Mr. David Reatt is appointed to correſpond with Sanctandros Preſbyterie for theſe effects.

March 20.—This day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, repreſents to the Preſbyterie, that it is reported a combat to be intendit betuixt Pittachup and Andrew Leſly. It is appointed that they ſhalbe ſummoned to appeir before the Preſbyterie the nixt day; and for that effect, a lettre is ordeined to be wrettin to the miniſter of Forgon, to cauſe ſummond Major Leſly.

This day, their is a reference from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk anent receiving of my Lord Canmoir his declaration of repentance for his acceſſioun to the Engadgement, and fornication. He is remitted bak to the Commiſſioun.[1]

[1] "1651, *Apryl* 6.—This day, the Vicount of Kenmuir his repentance was ressauit befor the pulpit on his knees; and gaue full satisfactioune, according to the order of the Generall Assembly, publictly read be the minister."—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Cupar.*

March 27.—This day, Johne Blyth, being ſummond, appeirs before the Preſbyterie; being aſked, if he did ſend a cartall to Major Andrew Leſly? denyed it. He is ſummond, *apud acta*, to appeir before the Preſbyterie this day 15 dayes. He is alſo deſyred to abſtein from any hoſtile way till that tyme; whilk he did promyſe, and two brether, Mrs. Johne Makgill and Andrew Bennett ar appointed to deall with him for that effect.

Maij 1.—This day, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne came from the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros for correſpondence, ſhowing that the brether of that Preſbyterie had liberally contribute for their diſtreſſed brether in Lawthian, put from ther charges, deſyreing the Preſbyterie to doe the lyke. Whilk the Preſbyterie did heartily aggree to, and ordeined, that ewery brother ſhould bring in with him the nixt day the proportion condiſcended wpon.

The reiding of the Warnings is delayed till the printed copies come to our hands. This day, the ſeverall brethren being poſed anent their judgement in relation to the publik reſolutiones of the Kirk, Mr. Johne Makgill profeſſed himſelff ſcrupled with ſome thinges in the publik reſolutiones. The brethren, being deſyrous to reaſon with him either to receive or hold out light, werre at laſt moved to delay the conference till after the enſewing meitting at Kirkaldy; ſo much the rather, becaus they had not received the printed copys of the late Warning, with the which eſpecialy he profeſſed himſelfe to be ſcrupled.

Maij 22.—This day, the Preſbyterie received a lettre from the Commiſſioun anent a voluntar loan, or giveing of money for ſuſteining the army; as alſo, they received a Warning from the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly. They ar appointed to be red in the ſeverall kirks.

Junij 12.—The whilk day, William Birrell produced the decreett of the Commiſſariot againſt his father and mother, for not conſenting to his mariage; as alſo, he produced the act of the Seſſioun of Falkland, ſhowing his ſatiſfaction for his fornication committed with Agnes Ramſay, ſhe having ſatiſfied alſo, as the act beares: wherupon the Preſbyterie doth appoint Mr. William Livingſtoun to marie the ſaids perſones.

The whilk day, the Preſbyterie haveing received ane ordinance from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, appointing our reverend brother Mr. David Reatt, miniſter at Darſy, to repair to the army, ther to attend my Lord

the Earle of Crawfuird his regement, for the ſpace of three monethes nixt enſewing, doe, by theſe preſents, ſecond and confirme the ſaid ordinance of the Commiſſioun, and authorize our foirſaid brother to repair to the foirſaid regement, and ther to performe all miniſteriall dewties to all and ewerie one, officiars and ſoldiers therof. Lykas, wee doe earneſtly and heartily recommend our foirſaid brother wnto the kyndneſſe and chriſtian care of the foirſaid noble Lord, and remanent officiars and ſoldiers of the ſaid regement, heartily exhorting them in the Lord, not only to yeeld wnto him hearty and cheerfull obedience in the diſcharge of his miniſtrie, but alſo, to ſie that he be honeſtly provyded for in all thinges neceſſare for his outrek and confortable abode among them; and that they be carefull tymouſly to provyde for his releiffe, that our foirſaid brother, haveing ſerved among them the tyme appointed, may be ſafe and ſound returned to his charge among us.

Julij 3.—This day, the Preſbyterie received a letter from the Juſticedeput anent James Cambell his bigamy, ſhowing that to his gryt regrate, according to the law of the kingdome, the puniſhment of bigamy is not capitall, but *pœna arbitraria;* wherwith the Preſbyterie is heighly diſpleaſed. The ſaid James is appointed ſtill to be keiped in firmance.

Auguſt 28.—This day, the Preſbyterie againe takeing to ther conſideration the vyle and horrid murther committed by Johne Heburne of Athurſtane, in killing James Laing, ſervant to the Laird of Rankilor Makgill younger, as is confeſſed by the ſaid Laird of Atherſtane, in his lettre writtin to the Preſbyterie; the Preſbyterie, after due and grave deliberation anent the ſaid mater, and conſidering the many weighty aggravateing circumſtances of that murther, doe, for the atrocity of that fact, ordeine the ſaid Johne Heburne of Atherſtane to be ſummarlie excommunicatt by Mr. Alexander Balfour in the kirk of Ebdy, in the whilk pariſh the ſaid murther was committed, as the ſaid Laird of Atherſtane was travaileing by the way, wpon the nixt Lords day, being the 31 of Aguſt.

Logy, Maij 6, 1652.—[Mr. Henry Pitcairne admitted miniſter there.]

October 21.—The whilk day, no exerciſe, in reſpect the Ingliſhes did imped theſe that werre to exerciſe.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. Andrew Anderſon repreſents to the

Preſbyterie the ſadd condition of his ſchoole, his ſcholers going abroad on the Saboth; deſyres, therfor, adviſe what he ſhould do in that cace. He is ordeined, whill they want preaching in the kirk, that he ſhall catechiſe his ſcholers on the Saboth, inſtructing them in the knowledge of God.

Apryl 21, 1653.—*Commiſſions Letter.*—This day the lettre of the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſemblie, of the daitt Feb. 21, 1653, was red; and as concerning that part of it which dothe deſyre that all and ewery one of our number who find our parts and actiones miſrepreſented in the book intituled, *The Nullity of the Generall Aſſembly at Sanctandros and Dundy*, clear therſelffes, and returne a clear narration of ther cariage of the truthe of the particulars in wrett with the firſt convenience, or at the furtheſt to the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, at the nixt meitting. The Preſbyterie delayes till this day 15 dayes, ordeining the brether to advyſe till the ſaid day anent the anſwere.

The brethren preſent declared, that they had keiped the faſt, and red the Cauſes which werre brought to them in the lettre. Only Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, he had keiped the faſt, but did not reid the Cauſes, becauſe (as he conceived them) they ar generall, ambiguous, and defective. Lykewyſe Mr. William Row declared, he had keiped the faſt wpon the authority of the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, and wpon theſe Cauſes (as he conceived them); but did not reid the paper conteineing theſe cauſes, becauſe of ſome generall and ambiguous expreſſions.

Monemell, Maij 12.—The whilk day, the act was preſented. It was aſked the brether anent the Act of the Generall Aſſembly at Sanctandros and Dundy, of the daitt at Dundy Julij 31, 1651, *Seſs.* 19, *antemeridiem*, appointing Expectants to declare themſelffs.

The queſtion being ſtated, Whither preſentlie this Act ſhould be put in execution or not? It was caried by one voice only, not. Therfor the brether of the Preſbytery therafter concluded by voiceing, that it ſhould be referred to the determination of the Synod.

Mr. Laurence Oliphant deſyres, that his meaneing anent his voiceing be marked, that he voiced it not to be putt in execution preſentlie, was in reſpect it ſhould be referred to the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly, and noe otherwyſe. Mr. Johne Makgill elder, deſyred that his voice be

noted that ſame way. Mr. Johne Makgill younger, deſyred his proteſtation againſt that acts being made uſe of as a rule wherby the Preſbyterie ſhould walk; and craved a double of the act of the Generall Aſſembly, that he might give in his reaſones. Mr. George Thomſon, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. William Row, Mr. William Bethun elder, requyred the ſame.

Mr. Walter Greig profeſſed, that he caried ſo much reſpect to, and expected ſo much charity from the Provinciall, as he did humbly intreat, that ther wiſdomes might be pleaſed not to urge the execution of that act for the preſent, (in reſpect of the ſadd eſtate of the tymes,) wherwith he cannot in conſcience goe along, for the reaſones that he ſhall ſhew in tyme and place convenient.

The anſwer of the lettre of the Commiſſioun of the Generall Aſſembly is drawn up, red before the Preſbyterie, and appointed to be ſubſcryved, and inſert in the Minutts; the tenor therof followes.

RIGHT REVEREND,

HAVEING taken to our serious thoughts your lettre directed to ws at your last meitting, and finding, besyde many other dowtes relateing to the publik gud of the Kirk, theirin to ws recommended, the performance wherof wee resolve, in the Lords strenth, to endeawour, that more particularly wee ar desyred to cleir ourselffes of what wee find misrepresented, as concerning our parts and actions, in that book entituled, "The Nullity of the pretended Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy;" and to returne to you a cleir narration of our cariage, and of the truthe of particulars in our electioun of Commissioners of that venerable Assembly, wee shall say no further but this, that our electioun was free and wnanimous, without either protestation or dissent to the contrair. And as for that lettre of the Commissioun 1650, so much talked of, be pleased to know, that it was so farr from haveing any influence wpon ws in the makeing of that electioun, that it came not to our hands till fourteen dayes therafter. Thus, humbly desyreing the Lord to direct yow in his work, and wishing yow to endevour to keip the unity of the Spiritt in the hand of peace, We ar

Your loveing Brethren in Chryst,

Cupar, May 19, 1653. THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPAR.

(Directed thus)

To the Moderator and remanent Members of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, 1652.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, that he was not cleir to vote in

that lettre, being wnſatiſfied with ſome things that was in the Commiſſiouns letter. Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he did adher to the proteſtation againſt the Aſſembly; therfore wold not vote to the lettre.

Julij 7.—The whilk day, the Laird of Collerny, with Mr. William Bethune, gave in ane add to the reaſones given in formerly againſt Mr. William Cochran his electioun to be miniſter at Creich, as followes: Wee add this evidence of Mr. William Cochran his imprudencie and wncharitableneſſe (to ſay no worſe), as was reported wnto ws, that, on a day in Kirkaldy, ſeing Mr. Samuel Rutherfuird paſſing by him, he ſaid, If ther be a debatched knave in Scotland ther is one; *diſtortum vultum ſequitur diſtortia morum.* For cleiring of this yee may enquyre Mr. Anthony Murray, ſtudent of divinity, Mr. Johne Malcom, ſcholmaſter in Kirkaldy, Johne Buchan doctor, and Johne Fuird ther. Being poſed anent that particular relateing to Mr. Samuel Rutherfuird, denyed it ſimpliciter.

Auguſt 11.—The whilk day, ſome brether waited for a full meitteing of the Preſbyterie, they werre commanded to diſperſe by ſome Ingliſhes, (haveing, as they ſaid, ane ordor for that effect;) againſt which encroachment wpon the right and priviledge of Preſbyteries, the brethren preſent, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. David Orme, Mr. Johne Alexander, Mr. William Row, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Mr. Henry Pitcairne, and the Laird of Collerny, ruleing elder, did proteſt; and that, notwithſtanding, it might be free for ws to meitt in our Preſbyteries for thoſe thinges that concerne the glory of God, and the good of thoſe people ſowles within our bounds, according to the word of God, and the acts of the Generall Aſſemblie.

October 6.—The whilk day, Mr. James Martin deſyred advyce of the Preſbyterie anent Thomas Brown and Iſobel Gilmour in his paroche, maried by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a depoſed miniſter, and alledged excommunicat, whoſe teſtimoniall for the foirſaid mariage he produced, What ſhould be done with them for the contempt of the ordor of our Kirk, and the baptiſeing of ther children begotten in fornication? The Preſbyterie appointed ther children to be baptiſed, they finding caution to ſatiſſy the Kirk in whatſoever cenſure ſhalbe enjoyned; and reſolves to advyſe of ther cenſure afterward.

Monemell, December 29.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Alexander craveth advyce anent the baptiſeing of a chyld whoſe parents ar lying wnder cenſure for ignorance. The Preſbyterie advyſeth the miniſter to deall with the parents to mak them ſenſible, and then baptize ther barne.

February 2, 1654.—Ther was this day a proceſſe of the Seſſioun of Newburgh, anent Kathrin Key being ſcandalized for witchcraft; and becauſe of the miniſters ſickneſſe who had it to reviſe, it being ſent againe to the Preſbyterie, it is given to Mr. James Wedderburne to reviſe.

Monemell, Junij 1.—Anent Johne Reids mater concerning privat Communion, it is delayed till the nixt day.

Junij 24.—Thomas Hey being called, compeirs, who, being ſworne, deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour ſay no more, but that Johne Reid gave them a ſoup watter round about, with many good words to it.

Johne Elder deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour ſay, that Johne Reid gave a drink of water and a bitt bread.

Chriſtian Thomſon, being ſworne, deponed, that Johne Reid did not give any bread, but ſought a bliſſeing to the water, but aſked how Jean Balcankquall did.

September 7.—Anent David Wentoun, adulterer, in the pariſh of Newburgh, haveing ſitten in the place of repentance a yeir, and not received becauſe of his ignorance and inſenſibleneſſe of his guiltineſſe and falleing in fornicatiou; the mater of his excommunication is referred to the Provinciall for advyſe.

Monemell, October 12.—This day, the act of the Provinciall anent reformation of Seſſiouns, elders, and families, for advancing the work of God, was red. And it is appointed, that the Preſbyterie ſhall meitt at Monemell on Tweſday the 17 of this inſtant, and to ſpend the whole day in conference, praying and faſting, as they ſhall think expedient.

October 19.—The Preſbyterie being ſadly weghted with the report of the continwance, and exhorbitant and unneceſſarly numerous confluences of people at pennie brydles, and of inexpedient and wnlawfull pypeing and dancing at the ſame, ſo ſcandalous and ſinfull in this tyme of our Churches lamentable conditioun; and being apprehenſive that miniſters and Kirk Seſſiouns have not bein ſo vigilant and active (as neid werre),

for repreſſing of theſe diſorders, doe therfor moſt ſeriouſly recommend to miniſters and Kirk Seſſiouns to repreſſe the ſame.

December 14.—Mr. Walter Greig preached at Cuper, and the Preſbyterie and pariſh being frequently mett, Mr. Johne Makgill was ſolemnelie admitted to the miniſtrie in that place according to order.

March 22, 1655.—This day, Lievetennent Croſman, ane Inglifhman, appeared before the Preſbyterie, and did raiſe the ſame, wherupon Mr. Johne Makgill, in name of adherers, did proteſt, and all preſent did adher.

April 12.—Mr. Johne Makgill younger repreſented to the Preſbyterie that proteſtation entered March 22, the tenor wherof followes:

WHILL the Presbyterie being mett at the ordinary tyme, and in the ordinary place, was consulting about reviseing the Acts of the last half yeir, that the register might be in readinesse against the Provinciall Assemblie, Lievetennent Crosman (ane Inglishman) told ws that the meitteing of the Provinciall was forbidden, and furthwith went away, and within ane hour after came bak againe, and commanded the Presbyteriall meitteing to ryse and disperse till further order; which the Brethren resolved to obey. But withall, Mr. Johne Makgill protested against the encroachment made wpon the liberties of our Kirk Judicatories, which hold of Jesus Chryst himselfe, and ar not subordinate to any civile or military power whatsoever. And that notwithstanding it may be frie to us to meett in our respective judicatories in a peaceable maner about the effairs of the Church of Chryst, within the bownds of our charge, as necessity requyres, when and wher the Lord in his good providence should give us opportunity and a call. And this wee doe not out of humourousnesse or turbulencie of spirit; but that wee may approve our selffes to God in our station, by asserting of, and beareing testimony unto the government, liberties, and privileges of the Church of Jesus Chryst, and judicatories therof, (according to the word of God, and the bonds of our sacred and solemne Covenant), which to us ar so pretiouse that wee darr not be consenting unto, nor silent at any thing which directly, or by consequence, may be prejudiciall unto them.

Mr. JAMES WEDDERBURNE,
WILLIAM ROW, adhers.

May 3.—Mr. David Orme reports, that he, with Mr. Alexander Balfour, had delt with Katharin Key, and found hir ſenſible of hir guiltineſſe of curſing hir miniſter. The miniſter is appointed to intimat to the pariſh if any had any thing concerning witchcraft to object, that they come to the Seſſioun, and give it in; and if nothing be found of that kynd, ſhe ſhall declare hir repentance in the public place of repentance, for curſing.

A reference from the Seſſioun of Falkland to the Preſbyterie was pre-

preſented, craveing ther advyce, What ſhould be done with a man that ſtrikes his wyffe, and will not forbear it? The Preſbyterie finding the buſſineſſe of common concernement, reſolves to crave advyce of other Preſbyteries.

Stramiglo, May 24.—Two lettres werre preſented that day to the Preſbyterie, one from the Synod of Lawthian, another from the Proveſt and and Bailyies of Edinburgh, deſyreing a contribution for the help of ſuch as had ther howſes brunt ther. The Preſbyterie reſolves to repreſent to the ſeverall Seſſiouns to doe accordingly. And delyvered the lettres to Mr. David Fermer, to tranſmitt them to the Preſbyterie of Dumfermling.

Junij 7.—The whilk day, Mr. Patrik Peacock being requyred to declare himſelffe, according to the act, declares as followes:

BEING requyred to declare myselffe, according to the Act of the Assemblie at Edinburgh, I doe declare, that it is my desyre that everie one should follow peace, and study the laying by all debates that hinders the prospering of the Lordis work in this Kirk, and that it is my purpose, in the Lordis strenth, to doe the same. But finding that I cannot declare my selffe according to that Act, wnlesse I would engadge in the debates now in hand, which I suppose is not the way to peace, and therfor I can not give satisfactioun as is requyred according to that Act as it stands *in terminis.*

The Preſbyterie haveing put Mr. Patrik Peacok to declare his judgement according to the act of the Aſſemblie at Edenburgh, and received his anſwer; Mr. Johne Makgill deſyred the Preſbyterie to conſider, Whither a young man, reſolveing to be peaceable, and forbeareing to engadge in debates in a tyme when the Church is ſo ſadly rent and divided, and wiſheing debates that hinder the proſperitie of the work of God in the Church werre layd aſyde, without declareing his judgement *pro* or *contra* in matters contraverted, whither, I ſay, that does not evidence ſuch a peaceable diſpoſition and purpoſe as dothe ſuite the duty of young men in a divided and rent Church. And without prejudice to his laſt proteſtation, deſyres the Preſbyteries ſenſe therof.

It being voiced, whither, firſt, Mr. Patrik his anſwer, or this motion ſhould be conſidered. It was concluded, that wee ſhould firſt conſider Mr. Patrik his anſwer.

It being voiced, whither the paper given in by Mr. Patrik be a declaration ſatiſfactory? It was concluded, that it was not ſatiſfactory.

Mr. Johne Makgill, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. George Thomefon, minifters, with Collerny, Lafiftoun, Henry Corby, elders, declared they could not voice, but defyred to adher to the diffent and proteftation.

Mr. William Livingftoun and Mr. James Martin, ar appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik for informeing him anent the equitie of the Act of the Affemblie concerneing young mens entrie, and to meet at Newburgh on Monday for that effect, and to report.

The motione proponed be Mr. Johne Makgill, is appointed to be further confidered untill the nixt day, and that then ane anfwer fhall be given to it.

Junij 21.—This day, the brethren appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik Peacok, for informeing him anent the equitie of the Act, reported that they had conferred with him, according to the appointment of the Prefbyterie, and endevoured to fatiffie him, but prevailed not.

The Prefbyterie, after deliberation upon the queftion proponed by Mr. Johne Makgill, doe put the matter to a vote, and it was caried equally, the one half of the Prefbyterie voteing for the affirmative, and the other half for the negative, (the Moderator not voiceing.) The Prefbyterie, takeing the foirfaid particular to confideration, thoght fitting to referre the famine to the Provinciall Affemblie enfewing.

Julij 12.—Mr. Patrik Peacok being enquyred, If he had fubfcryved the Proteftation againft the late Affemblie of the Church? Declared, that he had not fubfcryved the Proteftation. As alfo, being requyred to promyfe and give affurance, that he fhall abftaine from holding up debattes and contraverfies about matter of difference in this Church fince the Affemblie 1650, in preacheing, wretting, or otherwyfe: The faid Mr. Patrik did promyfe and give affurance, that he fhould abftaine from holding up debattes and contraverfies about matters of difference in this Church, fince the Affemblie [16]50, in preacheing, writting, or otherwyfe. Upon this ground Mr. Patrik was appointed to add as the firft part of his tryells.

Mr. Johne Makgill defyres that it might be remembred, that he adhered to his fenfe of the overture given in to the Synod, being of nothing more defyrous then young mens frie entrie to the miniftrie, and peaceable

behaviour in reference to contraverſies when they ar in the miniſtrie. And this being alwayes ſein to, I ſhould be ſatiſfied not to owne any proteſtation made formerly againſt (as he conceived) ſome intended incrochings therupon.

December 27.—This day, Mr. Johne Rig preſented a lettre from my Lord Burghley, craveing the advyce of the Preſbyterie, if any might be buried within his Iſle. The Preſbyterie judges that ther can be no buriall ther, it being a publik place of hearing the Word.

Februar 7, 1656.—This day, ane delegat from the Ingliſh Commiſſioners deſyred to have a notte of all the ſtipends which had wacked ſince the yeir 1651. The Preſbyterie, being very unfrequent, and the ordinary Moderator abſent, and the Clerk declareing that the book was not filled up, and the minutts not all at hand, entreated the gentlemans patience whill ther book be filled up. The Clerk is appointed to fill it up with all convenient diligence.

Februar 21.—It is voiced, whither the Preſbyterie ſhould declare againſt the erecting anew againe any Commiſſioun which had its authority from the Generall Aſſemblie 1650? The Preſbyterie appoints a declaration to be drawne up by Mr. David Orme, Mr. Alexander Balfour, and Mr. William Livingſtoun.

This day, Nicolas Merſhall and Jean Kede, who had bein maried by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a depoſed excommunicat miniſter, contrair to the ordor of our Kirk, ar appointed by the Preſbyterie, for removeing of the ſcandall, to ſitt before the pulpitt of Falkland all the tyme of divine ſervice one dyett, and therafter declare ther repentance for that ther unlawfull procedor; and that Mr. William Livingſtoun, haveing layd out ther fault to the Congregation, doe cauſe them, by joyneing of ther hands, engadge themſelffes by the mariage oath, the one to the other, for performance of the mariage duties dureing the reſt of ther lyfetyme heirafter.

Martij 6.—Mr. William Livingſtoun craveth advyſe, What cenſure ſhalbe inflicted upon theſe that ſtrike ther wyffes? It is referred to the Provinciall, being of common concernement.

The Declaration againſt the erecting of that Commiſſioun anew, haveing its ground from the Generall Aſſemblie 1650, the draught wherof was red

before the Preſbyterie and approven. But Mr. Walter Greig, Johne Makgill, William Row, James Wedderburne, werre not cleir; and Mr. Johne Makgill deſyred his diſſent to be marked from that draught, and promyſed to give in his reaſones in due tyme.

The tenor of the foirſaid Declaration followis:

THE Presbyterie being certainly informed, that some Ministers and vthers in this Kirk have of late erected a Committie, with publict authoritie above and over all the Congregationes, Presbyteries, and Synods, of the Kirk in this land, which is by the said Ministers pretended to be the Committie for publict effairs, appointed and authorized by the Generall Assembly holden at Edenburgh 1650; and considering that, besides that, the Ministers and others afoirsaid have not the originall Commission granted to that Committie by the said Assemblie, nor to our knowledge so much as any authentick double therof; and consequently knoweth neither the persons of whom that Committie was constitute, nor what matters werre committed unto them, nor what power was granted to them; considering, wee say, besides this, that all Commissions granted be the said Assemblie 1650, did expyre and become void for afterward, at the meitteing and sitting of the following Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros, in the year 1651; and particularly, that the Commission granted to the foirsaid Committie for publict affairs was by the Moderator, and greatter part of the members therof, delyvered and rendered up to that followeing Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros:—The Presbyterie dothe find, and heirby declares, that the erecting of such a Committie with publict authoritie, (which no Kirk judicatour inferior to Generall Assemblies can doe, let be privat men, such as these Ministers, and others that have joyned with them ar,) to be a most presumptuous usurpation over the Church of God in this land, and the judicatours therof, overturneing the established governement of the Kirk, setting up theirin, and above the judicatours therof, a reall prelaticall power, the said pretended Committie not being accountable to any of the present judicatours of this Kirk, and being to continew (according to the intention of the erectors therof) wntill a new Generall Assemblie, which the said pretended Committie (should it be permitted) shall have power to hinder and imped, so long as they shall think expedient, Who, therfor, may prorogat and propogat their usurped authoritie so long as they will; and directly and positively condemning these two late Generall Assemblies at Sanctandros and Dundie 1651, and Edenburgh 1652, as wnlawfull, and no Generall Assembly, tending all to the undoing of this whole Kirk by a woefull and remedilesse schisme, and contrare to our Nationall Covenant, and to the Solemne League and Covenant. And therfor the Presbyterie, finding themselffes bound by the commandement of Jesus Chryst, the covenant and oath of God, to endevour in ther station, and according to ther calling, the preservation of religion as it is by the mercie of God established amongst us, in doctrine, worship, governement, and disciplin, and to oppose, in so farr as in them lyeth, everie course and designe tending to the overturneing of the same in any [way], whither in whole or in part, doe, in the name of Jesus Chryst, obtest, and by that authoritie

wherwith the Lord hes endewed them within his house, charge and requyre all Ministers within ther bounds, that none of them presume to sitt in or concurre with the afoirsaid pretended Committie, or any Committie whatsoever, erected without the authoritie of the present established judicatours of the Kirk; or to doe any thing, by vertue of any act which shall happen to be made or emitted by the afoirsaid pretended Committie or Committies, as they wilbe answerable to Jesus Chryst, and to the Presbyterie and superior judicatours of this Kirk. Lykeas in the same manner, they doe obtest and charge all professors within ther bounds, of whatsoever rank and condition, that none of them doe acknowledge the said pretended Committie or Committies, or give obedience to any of ther citations, acts, or constitutiones: But, on the contrare, that, according to ther severall stations, and as God shall call them and give occasion, that they doe testify ther disallowance of ther usurpation; as they would not be found accessory to such disorderly courses, and guilty of the miseries and confusiones that therby may come wpon this Kirk, and would not incurre the censure of the Kirk due to such offences. And, finally, ordeines that whatsoever student of divinitie shall desyre to enter upon ther tryells for the exercyse of ther gifts, and whatsoever expectants ar to enter upon tryells in relation to a calling to the ministrie within this Presbyterie, before they be admitted, or entered upon ther tryells, they be requyred to declare ther disallowance of the said pretended Committie, and all other Committies of that kynd that shall happen to be erected in that manner; and to promyse that they shall never owne them as lawfull Committies or Judicaturs of this Kirk, and if they refuise to doe the same, that they be debarred from being admitted upon ther tryells.

Cults, Maij 1.—[Mr. George Dishentoun admitted minister of Cults.]

Darsy, Maij 22.—The Moderator propond the question to the brethren and elders of the Presbyterie severally, Whither or not they knew in the bounds of this Presbyterie any ministers or elders that ar probably presumde to be insufficient or scandalous; and that, as they would be answerable to ther Lord and Master, they may delate the same, to the end, that if any such be given up, the Presbyterie may appoint visitationes for tryell and censureing the same, according to the order prescryved in the act of the late Synod, concerneing visitationes.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger, being first in order, and being interrogat, gave in his answere in paper, as followes:—Mr. Johne Makgill being interrogat by the Moderator, If he knew any of his brethren insufficient or scandalous, etc. in ther ministrie and conversation, and obtested to declare what he knew, as he wold be answerable to his Lord and Master; the said Mr. Johne desyred the Presbyteries resolution first, before he could answere to ther question and demand, whither he might frielie delate

what he heard concerneing any of his brethren without being looked upon as raſh, uncharitable, etc. or held obleiged to prove, or give in witneſſes to prove delateing what he had heard.

The Preſbyterie, haveing refuiſed to give Mr. Johne Makgill ane anſwere to his queſtione, the ſaid Mr. Johne declared, that he could not otherwayes anſwere to the Preſbyteries queſtione and demand, and therfor behooved to withdraw himſelffe from the Preſbyterie acting any thing in that buſſineſſe, not being deſyrous or cleir to be involved in any concluſion that they ſhould come to by this maner of procedor.

The Preſbyterie, haveing conſidered the ſaid queſtione, and withall remembring that he had propond it before to the Synod, and had not bein cleired, for any thing they find in the Synod book, did refuiſe to ſolve his queſtione; wheirupon the ſaid Mr Johne was interrogat againe, and deſyred to anſwere to the firſt and maine queſtione; wherunto he gave in, by way of anſwere, the paper, and deſyred ane extract, which was appointed to be given him.

Many of the reſt of the brethren anſwered (being ſeverally interrogat), that they knew none of ther brethren to be under probable preſumptiones of inſufficiencie or ſcandell; and others werre uncleir for the preſent.

Sires, Julij 17.—This a day, a reference from the Seſſioun of Cupar is preſented to the Preſbyterie, craveing advyce what ſhalbe done with thoſe women that ar dipped. The miniſter is appointed, with two or three elders, to conferre with them, and to report the nixt day. Correſpondents ar appointed to be ſent to neighbouring Preſbyteries, Mr. William Row to Sanctandros, and Mr. George Diſhentoun to Kirkaldy, for ther advyce.

Julij 21.—This day, the Preſbyterie mett at Cupar, by occaſioun of a lettre ſent from the Moderator of the Synod to our Moderator, deſyreing two of our number to be authoriſed to attend a meitteing of correſpondents from the ſeverall Preſbyteries of this province, at Cupar on Thureſday nixt, for nominateing of two to goe from this province to attend the meitteing of ſome miniſters (two from everie province) at Edenburgh, the firſt Weddenſday of Auguſt nixt, anent the good of Religioun againſt the encroachment of Poperie, which is judged fitt, yea neceſſary, by the miniſters of Edenburgh to be keiped. The brethren falling upon the buſſineſſe, but,

after ſome debate and conference upon the matter, finding themſelues not cleir, reſolved and ordeined, that the Preſbyterie ſhould meett on Thureſday nixt, that they may have information from correſpondents of other Preſbyteries for ther cleireing, before they proceed in it. And, becauſe of loſeing much tyme by two dayes meetteing in one week, adjournes the nixt meitting of our Preſbyterie after Thureſday till that day 15 dayes, being the 7 of Auguſt; ordeineing the brethren formerly appointed to exerciſe and add that day.

Julij 24.—This day, the Preſbyterie mett for chuſeing two brether, (as was formerly appointed,) the brether, not being cleir the former day, did adjourne it to this day; abſents Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. George Thomeſon, James Wedderburne.

The queſtione being ſtated thus, Whither the end of our chuſeing correſpondents ſhalbe in theſe termes, To meett at Edenburgh, the firſt Weddenſday of Auguſt nixt, with the bretheren commiſſionat from the reſt of the province, to conſult for the good of religion againſt the encroachment of Poperie? It was concluded, affirmative. The bretheren did chuſe Mr. David Orme and Mr. Alexander Balfour to meett with the correſpondents of other Preſbyteries of Fyiff preſently in this place, for the end above expreſt. From which whole concluſion, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. Johne Makgill diſſented, being not cleir.

October 23.—*Anabaptiſts.*—Anent the Anabaptiſts in the paroche of Cuper, in regard ther was ane ordinance from the Synod relateing to them, and the Synod book was not preſent, the buſſineſſe was delayed till afterward.

November 20.—*Anabaptiſts.*—The Preſbyterie haveing conſidered the late act of the Synod of Fyiffe concerning the Anabaptiſt women within the pariſh of Cuper, have thoght meett, in obedience therto, to cite them to appear before them. And ordeines the kirk officer of the pariſh of Cuper to ſummond them, to wit, Elſpet, Iſobel, and Criſtian Millers, to appear before the Preſbyterie the nixt day of meitteing, being the 4 of December enſewing.

January 1, 1657.—*Anabaptiſts, Elſpet, Iſobel, Chriſtian Millers.*—This day, Elſpet, Iſobel, and Criſtian Millers, appeares before the Preſbyterie. The Moderator queſtioned them, If they did owne ther baptiſme in ther in-

fancie? Anſweres, that they did not owne it. 2. They manteined, that Chryſt died for all intentionally. 3. That the ſowle ſleeps with the body till the reſurrection. 4. That Saints and true believers may fall away from true ſaveing grace. 5. That the decree of election is not abſolute. They grant that the ſpirit of God is irreſiſtable: which tennets werre contradictorie. They are appointed to be conferred with by Mr. Johne Makgill and George Thomeſon.

January 15.—The Preſbyterie finding that the ſinne of drukenneſſe ſtill abounds, and that ſome dolefull accidents falls out upon the occaſiones therafter, and yet theſe eſcape cenſure who ar acceſſory to the drukenneſſe occaſione ſuch accidents, It is appointed heirby, that theſe who have beene acceſſory to any drukenneſſe of that kynd be tryed, and be, according to the degree of that occaſioun, cenſured.

February 26.—William Thomeſon, Inglifhman, appeares before the Preſbyterie, and confeſſed that he had bein ane Anabaptiſt formerly, dothe now diſclaime the ſaid Anabaptiſme, and deſyred his chyld be baptiſed. The Preſbyterie reſolves to remitt him to the Miniſter and Seſſioun of Cuper to be delt with; and in the mean tyme his child is not to be baptiſed till he be ſenſible of his error.

Martij 12.—A cace of conſcience wes proponed to the Preſbyterie, by Mr. William Livingſtoun, Whither any created power might lawfullie by judiciall ſentence appoint the ſonne to ſcourge his mother, and ſie the ſame put in execution, yea or nay? The Preſbyterie anſwered, negative; profeſſing that the affirmative was bothe horride and contrare to the law of God and Nature.

Anabaptiſts.—Anent the Anabaptiſts women, the Preſbyterie thinks [fitt] to ſummond them to appeare before the Preſbyterie, (according to the appointment of the Provinciall,) that report may be given to the Synod. The other Anabaptiſt, William Thomeſon, is delayed till Mr. Johne Makgill and Mr. William Row give in ther report.

Anent women witneſſes, Whither they being Elders wyffes may be witneſſes?

Junij 4.—*Anabaptiſts.*—The Anabaptiſts ar called upon *pro* 3$^{to.}$ They ar declared contumacious. They ar appointed to be ſummond out of pulpit

publickly, and a lettre is to be wrettin to the Miniſter, wher two of them reſide; the thrid, ſtaying in towne, is to be publikly ſummond out of pulpit.

Junij 18.—This day, Commiſſioners from the towne of Sanctandros preſented ther deſyre, that the contribution for ther peir ſhould be accelerated in reſpect of the ſeaſon of the yeir, they being ſo neceſſitat for the tyme. And in the meantyme, copies ar delyvered to everie miniſter to be preſented to ther Seſſiounes to be gathered as they think expedient.

Mr. Johne Makgill repreſented to the Preſbyterie, that he had conferred with Criſtian Miller, on of the Anabaptiſt women, and had not cited hir, (according to the former dayes appointment,) out of pulpit, becauſe he hath hope that ſhe ſhalbe convinced of hir error; and therfor he did delay the ſame till he ſie what may be done. Mr. George Thomeſon is appointed ſtill to concurr with him.

Julij 16.—*Anabaptiſts.*—Criſtian Miller, Anabaptiſt, being delt with by the two brether, Mr. Johne Makgill and Mr. George Thomeſon, they report that ſhe is ſtill obſtinat, and vilipends privat citationes. She is appointed to be ſummond publikly out of pulpitt.

The queſtione being propond, Whither Mr. William Tullideff ſhould be now or never poſed anent his declaration? It caried that he ſhould never be poſed. He is appointed to be admitted to the miniſtrie this day 15 dayes. Mr. Alexander Balfour is appointed to intimat on the Saboth come eight dayes, and Mr. William Livingſtoun to celebrate the action.

Denbug, the penult of Julij.—[Mr. William Tullideff admitted miniſter at Denbug.]

Sept. 3.—The Preſbyterie takeing to ther conſideration the ſad evidences of the Lords diſpleaſure upon the land, by the unſeaſonable raine, thinks fitt to change ther texts, for inbeareing this ſaid ſtroke upon the people.

Monemell, September 10.—The whilk day, the Preſbyterie mett at Monemell, (in obedience to the act of the Synod to the Preſbyterie, and the act of the Preſbyterie this day 15 dayes,) Mrs. David Raitt, William Row, Johnne Rig, Walter Greig, George Thomeſon, James Wedderburne.

The names of the elders ar given in to the Preſbyterie. The elders preſent, Alexander Balfour, David Bontaveron, Johne Mores, Robert Low, Alexander Low. They all being interrogat, if they werre the reporters,

that Mr. David Orme was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land without the parifh? They all denyed.

Alexander Balfour being particularly enquyred, if ther minifter was avocat from his calling, or omitted any point therof as preacheing, catechifeing, or vifiteing, etc. Anfwered, that he never knew him omitt any duty of his calling.

Johne Mores being called, declared, that he never knew ther minifter to neglect any point of his calling by his laboureing of land.

David Bontaveron being queftioned, anfwered, that he could not miffe ther minifter from his calling by laboureing of land without the parifh.

Robert Low being enquyred as before, anfwered, that he never knew his minifter abftracted (by laboring of land) from the duties of his calling, but was als dutifull and painfull as any minifter whatfoever.

Alexander Low, being enquyred as before, anfwered, he knew not any abftraction from his calling by laboureing of land; but wifhed they werre als diligent in attendance as he was to doe his duety.

Thefe fyve elders all being called before the Prefbyterie. The Prefbyterie [confidering] that this will not be taken for a fufficient inquirie by the Synod, did therfor appoint another dyet, that the abfent elders may be prefent.

September 24.—The Laird of Rankilor-Nether appeares before the Prefbyterie; being enquyred, if ther minifter, Mr. David Orme, was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Anfwered, that he defyres his minifter be exhorted to be more painfull in vifiteing and catechifeing; and he thoght that he might be more painfull if he werre not fo diverted; and that he would fet his land, if fo be it fhould be to his prejudice.

The Laird of Mount appeared, and being interrogat, if his minifter was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Anfwered, that he knew him not avocat.

Robert Henderfone appeares, and declares, that it did not avocat him. David Ballingall appeares, and declares that it did not avocat the minifter. Florence Johnftoun declares, that he knew him not to be avocat.

The whole heritors and elders being heard, and the minifter himfelffe being interrogat, the Prefbyterie found, that he had land in his owne

hand in Newburgh; and that he was a conjunct tutor and curator for two pupills in the parish of Colleffy, his fisters children, who had nether father nor mother, and that he had furnished some cornes for plenishing ther rowme. The Presbyterie doe advyse him to set that land, if it should be to his prejudice, and to acquite himselffe of those burdines of that tutory and curatory to the other unqle by the father syde. And withall, because they heare he is sometymes avocat by attending the civile judicatories anent his stipend, which is ill payed by some, doe therfor appoint a lettre to be wrettin to the heritors not to be a cause of avocation to him by ther deficiencie.

Ketle, October 29.—The minister and elders ar exhorted to rebuike tipling and long sitting at drink; and that they delate swearers and cursers, and crub pipeing and dancing.

Apryl 22, 1658.—*Anabaptist.*—Cristian Miller, in the parish of Cupar, being before declared contumax to the discipline of the Kirk of Scotland, the minister is appointed to goe on in the first prayer, before the sentence of excommunication.

Maij 5.—Mr. George Thomeson represented to the Presbyterie, that the parish of Kilmany had no mantenance for a schole. The Presbyterie resolves to tak the most speedie course for furthering the bussinesse.

Maij 20.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported, that he had prayed the 2d tyme before excommunication. His diligence is approven. As also, he shew that she, Cristian Miller, Anabaptist, had sent some privat persones, desyreing him to conferre with hir, which he had condiscended to doe before two elders; but being informed of some probabilities that it was but a shift to delay tyme, he had withall desyred them to tell hir that he could not break off the course of the processe of excommunication without the Presbyterie; wishing her to be serious and ingenuous in the demanded conference. But that since that he heard nothing more from her. The Presbyterie approveth what he hath done, and appoints him to pray for her in publicke the 3d tyme before the pronunciation of the sentence.

Julij.—Anabaptists.—The Presbyterie haveing considered the whole processe concerning Christian Miller, who hath rejected and made defection from the doctrine, worship, discipline, and governement of the Kirk

of Scotland, and hath not onely turned unto the Anabaptiſticall way, but alſo hath therwith drunk in all the Arminian errors; and that notwithſtanding of the miniſter and Kirk Seſſioun of Cuper ther tender dealling in much long ſuffereing, and the Preſbyterie, and ther Commiſſioners endevours with all meekneſſe, and all faire meanes and wayes that could be thought upon eſſayed, ſhe doth moſt obſtinately continew in a wilfull refuiſall to hearken to any conference, not condiſcending ſo much as to give or heare a reaſon from us, concerning what truthes ſhe hath caſt off, and the errors which ſhe hath embraced: wherfore the Preſbyterie being bound in conſcience to uſe all lawfull meanes for preventing the lyke tendernes to others, and having privately and publickly called for her, and called on the name of God on her behalf, when they could not prevaile, that no meanes appointed by Jeſus Chryſt ſhould be neglected, doe ordaine the ſaid Chriſtian Miller to be excommunicated, and appoint Mr. Johne Makgill to doe it in the kirk of Cuper.

It being found, by depoſition of witneſſes, that Adam Taite, (referred by the Seſſioun of Balmirrinoch to the Preſbyterie,) had moſt wickedly traduced Mr. Walter Greig, and laboured to weaken his miniſtrie, calleing him a betrayer of ſowles, a ſcruffer of ſcriptures, and one unworthie of his place, etc.: all which he had denyed till it was proven.

Lykewyſe, it being found that the ſaid Adam, with Marjory Jak, who had together broached many foull, vyle, ſclanderous ſpeeches againſt Mr. Walters wyffe; alſo, all which was proven againſt them, after they had denyed the ſame. Therfor, the Preſbyterie ordeines all the three [two] to appeare before the congregation of Balmirrinoch in ſackclothe, and ther acknowledge ther offences, and declare ther repentance for the ſame.

Julij 22.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported that he had excommunicated Chriſtian Miller, according to appointment. The Preſbyterie ordeines her excommunication to be intimated throughout the ſeverall kirks of the Preſbyterie, and lykewyſe to give notice therof to neighbour Preſbyteries.

December 30.—William Thomeſon, Anabaptiſt, with his wyffe Iſobel Webſter, being called pro 3o. and not compeiring, they ar appointed publickly to be ſummond out of pulpitt.

January 27, 1659.—Anent the diſtreſt depoſed miniſters, it is to be taken to the ſerious conſideration of the brether.

February 10.—William Thomeſon compeired, and profeſſed that he was convinced of the errore of his defectione to Anabaptiſme, wherto he had been, through ignorance, and by reſpect at that tyme, ſeduced, and was content to ſubmitt to any way of ſatiſfactione for the removeing of that ſcandall; as alſo, for the ſcandall of his diſorderly way of mariage with Iſobel Webſter. The Preſbyterie ordeines, that he ſhall goe to the congregation of Cuper, wher he was dipped and gave offence, and ther preſent his child of four yeirs old to be baptized ther publickly before the congregation, to profeſſe his faults foirſaid, and to promiſe ther (as he had done heere) to ſeek God for ſtedfaſtneſſe heirafter; and his wyffe Iſobel Webſter was lykewayes appointed to declare her repentance, the foirſaid day, for her diſorderly way of mariage.

Martij 10.—The Preſbyterie haveing heard of ſome perſone makeing uſe of a child for cureing the Cruells, the Preſbyterie doth appoint the brether to inhibit perſones in that kynd; and, withal, that it be a reference to the Synod.

May 26.—George Smyth, bailyie of Pittenweem, preſents a ſupplication for a contribution for ſupplieing of ther harbory. It is recommendit to the ſeverall brethren. The contribution for Anſtruther is firſt to be perfyted, and then the reſt of the contributions for Craill, Pittenweem, and Kinghorne, ar appointed to be collected.

Julij 28.—This day, Mr. David Raitt cauſed call one James Lowdon, in his paroche, before the Preſbyterie, for ſcandalous advyſeing with ane infamous woman anent his health; and he, being extreamly weighted therwith, the Preſbyterie doe appoint him to mak declaration of his repentance before the pulpitt, which he promiſed to obey.

September 2.—[Mr. James Wedderburne younger admitted aſſiſtant to his father at Moonſie.]

December 1.—Mr. James Makgill, miniſter at Largo, deſyred the Preſbyteries ſenſe and certificat of the uſuall practiſe of the Kirk and Preſbyterie, of what was allowed to the relicts of deceaſed miniſters, that accordingly might be done to his mother, the relict of our reverend brother Mr. Johne

Makgill, late minifter at Flifk, who deceafed March 22, 1659. The Prefbyterie, haveing confidered the cafe, and tyme of the defuncts departure, find that, according to the ufuall practife of the Prefbyterie in all tyme bygone, and acts of the Kirk, when a minifter dieth in Januarij, his relict or executor gett the whole ftipend of that yeir wherin he dyeth; and fo to the relict of Mr. Johne Makgill, who died March 22, 1659, wilbe due the whole ftipend of this prefent yeir 1659, which the Prefbyterie doe advyfe and intreat thes concerned in the payment to delyver unto her. And the whole præmiffes ar appointed to be certified to Mr. James Makgill by ane extract heirof, fubfcryved by our Moderator and clerk.

Februar 23, 1660.—Mr. William Livingftoun defyred advyce of the Prefbyterie, Whether or not he might contract one Johne Murrey, whofe father was alive, the faid Johne not haveing a teftimoniall under his fathers hand, declareing his confent to the mariage? The Prefbyterie, finding that he was only a naturall fonne, and that the place of his fathers refidence was remote at Dunfreifh, and that now ther was fome hazard in travaileing, thought he might goe on to marry him if no other thing were excepted.

Junij 21.—It was motioned alfo, anent the Thankfgiveing for the great delyverance wee have had by bringing our governement eftablifhed in our King; and it being prefented, that befouth and benorth us they have bein about this, the bretheren, confidering that our neighbouring Prefbyteries hes not as yet gone about it, think it therfore expedient to correfpond with them the nixt Weddenfday: Mr. William Row is appointed for that effect, and to report this day 8 dayes, which they have appointed therfore to meett. He hath alfo in commiffion, to fhew to them the changeing of the mercat of Auchtermuchty from Monday to Twefday.

The brether appointed to draw up the oath which fhould be put to Sir George Morifon, [it] was prefented and reade in his heareing: He is fummond *apud acta* to appeare this day 8 dayes.

I, Sir George Morison, doe solemnely protest and sweare by the most holy and dreadfull name of the eternall and everliveing God, that I never had at any time, nor in any place, carnall dealeing or copulation with Jonet Hamiltoun, sometyme servant to my wyff; nether am I the father of the child brought forth by her, as she alledges. And this, upon the foirsaid great oath, I doe declare to be of truthe, in presence and sight of the alseing God, the searcher of hearts;

and that, as I shalhe answerable to his most gloriouse Majestie, upon the fearfull hazard of my sowles everlasting condemnation in that dreadfull day wheirin Chryst Jesus shall come to judge the world, and call me to ane account for the integretie of my heart, and for truthe and ingenuitie of my words and declaration in this particular.

Mr. Alexander Balfour craved advyſe anent a man who had lived in his pariſh 6 or 7 yeirs unblameably; but the Seſſioun, willing to be cleired concerning him, deſyred him bring a teſtimoniall from the place of his former abode, which they did receave, beareing in it that a warlaw[1] condemned had delated him as being als guilty as himſelfe; but it was lykewayes knowne that he had malice at him, as was declared. Mr. Alexander ſhew that he had not communicat ſince he was his pariſhioner; but now being deſyrous to communicat, Mr. Alexander craveth advyſe from the Preſbyterie, whither or not he might be admitted.

Junij 28.—Mr. William Row reported, that the Preſbyterie of Sanctandros had concluded anent the Thankſgiveing, that it ſhould be on Thurſday, for that the Lord hes bien pleaſed to grant ſuch a delyverance to our King, without blood, in ſuch an unexpected way. The Preſbyterie reſolves to obſerve that day with als great thankfulneſſe, joy, and gladneſſe, as poſſibly can be.

September 20.—This day, a number of copies of the Kings Majeſties Lettre direct to the Preſbyterie of Edenburgh, and appointed to be communicatt to the reſt of the Preſbyteries of this kingdome, werre ſent hither by Mr. James Wood; a copy was judicially reade in the Preſbyterie. The reſt of the copies deſtribute to the ſeverall Bretheren, who heard and received the ſame with great joy, contentment, and abundance of reſpect as was ſuitable. They took to advyſe what to ſay while we meett at the Synod.

The Preſbyterie recenting ther ſeverall Seſſiones to be ſo tedious and long, that Bretheren ar extreamely wearied and keeped ſo late, they have not ſufficient tyme to repaire home, doe recommend the Bretheren ther avoydeing of neidleſſe debateing about matters of ſmalleſt importance; neither interrupting one another in giveing ther judgement; but that they expreſſe themſelffes in due tyme and order: And that everie purpoſe alreadie tabled be propond by the Moderator, none of the reſt ſpeaking till

[1] *Warlock;* a wizzard.

they be by him requyred. Then, that in the way of deliberation, everie member, as he ſhalbe deſyred, utter his judgement breifly, with the reaſon or reaſones therof, in a perſpicuous concludent manner, all keipeing ſilence, giveing attendance, forbearing private conference, whiſpering, in the meane tyme. Then if ther be difference of judgement in the diſpute, that the matter be, by the Moderator, put to a deciſive voice, and the queſtion ſtated in breiffe termes, unto which everie one ſhall anſwere, not altering the words therof; and that none may have occaſione to conceive himſelffe neglected in the deliberation, everie member before voiceing be heard to ſpeake his mynd, upon libertie aſked and given, but that none in tyme of voiceing mak interruption. And ordeines, that whoſoever ſhall faile in thes or any of thes, that he be removed and cenſured.

The Bretheren ar removed to be cenſured, and ar approven.

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